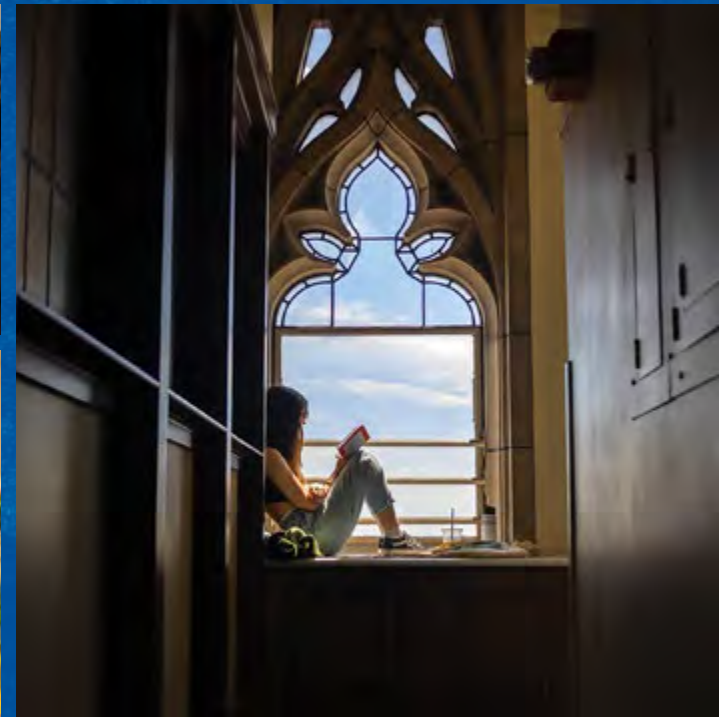


David C. Frederick Honors College

2022-23 Annual Report





Forge your own path.

The David C. Frederick Honors College provides increased opportunity, incentives, and recognition for high academic attainment by students.



David C. Frederick Honors College
BY THE NUMBERS:

Student Enrollment

2,480

students in fall 2022

Incoming Class of 2027

1501 **34** **4.51**

Average
SAT

Average
ACT

Average
GPA

Inaugural Graduating Class*

111 received honors distinction

182 received honors degrees

34 received Bachelor of
Philosophy degrees

*Those who graduated in summer 2022, fall 2022, or spring 2023, who were acknowledged at our first graduation recognition ceremony this spring



FULBRIGHT

The University of Pittsburgh, supported by the David C. Frederick Honors College Office of National Scholarships and Post-Graduation Success, was named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S. students for the 2022-23 academic year by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Twelve new engagement- and research-based programs were launched.

Pitt students and alumni were awarded 57 national scholarships in the 2022-23 academic year.

The Frederick Honors College provided more than 150 funded research program experiences and allocated more than \$400,000 in student research funding.

The Frederick Honors College increased its staff by more than 40% and its physical space in the Cathedral of Learning by 33%.



Message from the Dean

This was a momentous year for the David C. Frederick Honors College! From our naming in July 2022 to the graduation of our first-ever cohort of honors degree students in April 2023, we have made astonishing steps forward, advancing our mission and supporting our students in a year of firsts and accomplishments.



We had a name change in July 2022—and a naming celebration in September 2022—to become the David C. Frederick Honors College, in honor and recognition of the transformative gift provided by alumnus **David Frederick** (A&S '83), Pitt's first Rhodes scholar, and his wife, Sophie Lynn. This was the first college naming gift at Pitt in more than a decade and the largest in Pitt's history. The unique structure of the exciting and prestigious partnership with University College Oxford in England.

In August, we welcomed the largest entering class of honors college students in our history. In our return to in-person orientation and welcome week (the first since 2019!), we launched a preceptorial program to connect new students to faculty and staff and to orient them to the city of Pittsburgh. We also celebrated our inaugural cohort of Chancellor's Plus merit scholars from across disciplinary fields.

Throughout the academic year, we grew and innovated. We added new staff; grew our numbers by more than 40%; and launched new offices, including the Office of National Scholarships and Post-Graduation Success, Honors Advising, and Social Innovation in Honors Education. We hired the first dedicated honors faculty members in our history through the Electus Faculty Fellows program. We added new space, opening the new Advising Center and the new Student Engagement Center on the 34th floor of the Cathedral of Learning. We piloted Oxford-style tutorials and enrichment contracts, offering new ways for students to earn honors credit. We launched new programs, including City Honors and the Applied Leadership Program. We hosted speakers and luminaries, including Patricia Lockwood, Joy Harjo, Tom Friedman, and Damon Young. We piloted interdisciplinary and thematic research hubs and hosted the largest research symposium in our history. We also formed the Honors Student Council, with student leaders running elections, hosting events, and creating a constitution and bylaws.

“The success of our students this year was extraordinary. Both on and off campus, our students **excelled.**”

We also received incredible philanthropic support outside of our naming gift. Most notable was a \$2 million donation from prominent philanthropist John Martinson in support of experiential learning. His gift makes us the only honors college in the nation to have received funding in a single academic year from two of the top 50 philanthropists in the United States, as named by the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The success of our students this year was extraordinary. Both on and off campus, our students excelled. Pitt had 57 national scholarship recipients across a huge range of awards, including two truly landmark firsts: **Alexander T. Firestine** (CBA '23, FHC '23) became the first Mitchell scholar in Pitt's history and Anna Li became Pitt's first Soros scholar. Four of our students were named to the inaugural cohort of Obama Voyager scholars,—making us the top public university in number of awardees. **Dannial Cardillo** (A&S '23, FHC '23) celebrated a rare “triple” federal scholarship win, adding a Critical Languages Scholarship to his earlier Boren and Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship wins. We had 11 Fulbright scholars and Pitt was again named a top Fulbright producer. **Aditi Sridhar** (A&S '23, FHC '23) was named a rising star in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Academy Gold Rising Program and was a 2023 Oscars trophy presenter. For the first time in Pitt's history, all the students elected to University-level Student Government Board offices (including the incoming president, **Ryan Young**) were honors college students.

Even our Board of Visitors members did amazing things: former Board of Visitors Chair **Doug Browning** (A&S '72) was named chair of the University's Board of Trustees and led the successful search for Pitt's new chancellor, **Anna Quider** (A&S '07) was named a 2022 Top Lobbyist by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics, and **Nicole Rudolph** (A&S '90, '93G) became a “Jeopardy!” champion.

And perhaps most significant of all was the graduation of the first joint degree and distinction cohort in our history at a beautiful and elegant ceremony on the Cathedral of Learning lawn. The sight of our students crossing the stage at the University-level commencement in their Frederick Honors College “mini-hoods” was truly a joy to behold.

I am so proud of our incredible success and want to recognize the collective and collaborative work of our extraordinary and dedicated staff, our amazing and creative faculty members, our partners across the University, and our alumni and supporters who made these accomplishments possible. I am so honored to be serving as dean and leading the Frederick Honors College during this time of growth and innovation, and I look forward to continuing its trajectory toward even greater collective success in the future.

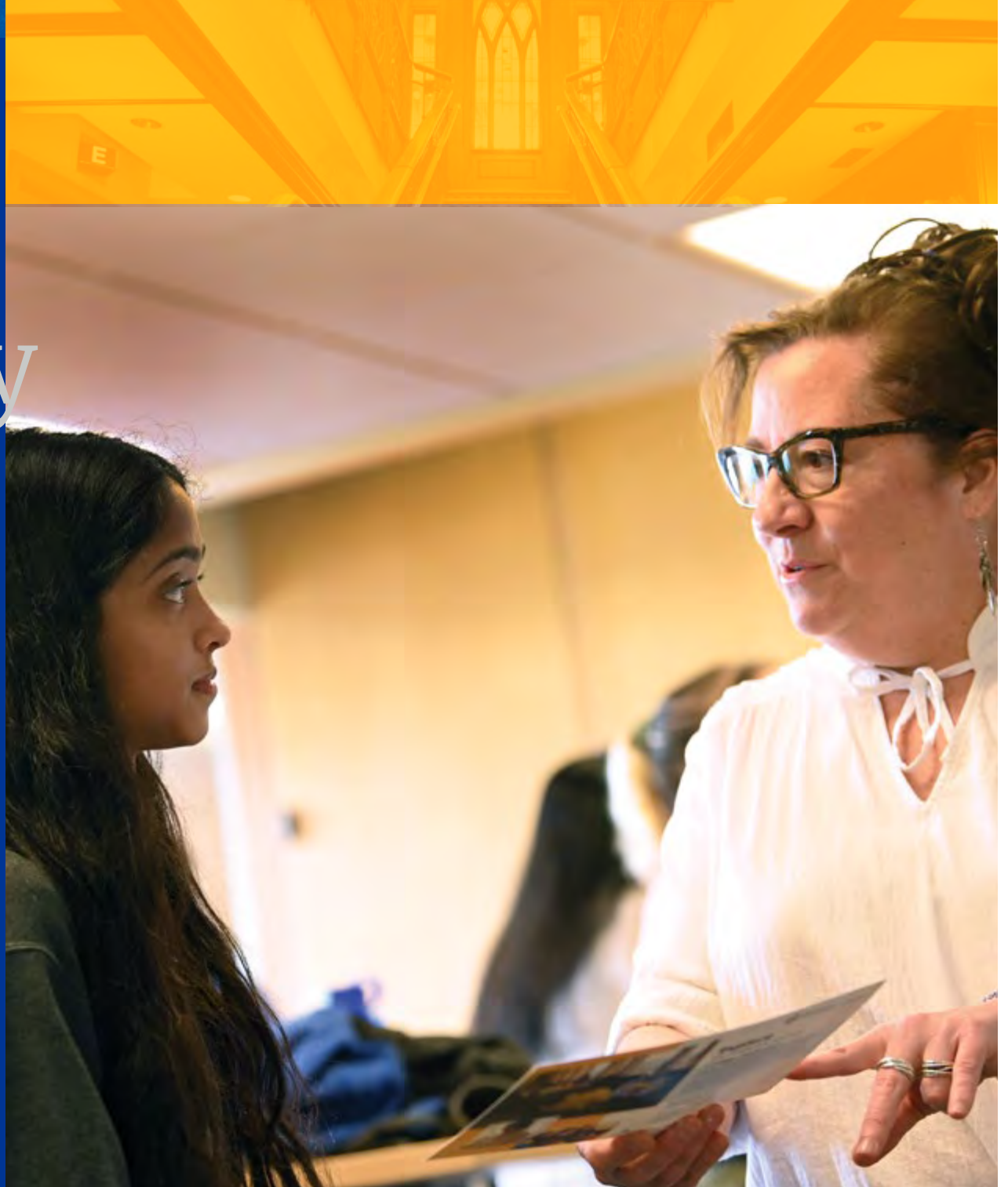


Nicola Foote, PhD
Dean
David C. Frederick Honors College



WE Lead Decisively

New directors pave the way for stronger team collaboration and further departmental growth. During this academic year, the Frederick Honors College has seen a lot of positive growth, especially in the form of new employees and new leadership. We have welcomed a new director of administration to our team and two of our own have been promoted to reflect their outstanding contributions and leadership skills.



SCHOOL NEWS



Liz Adams (A&S '85), Director of Advising and Student Success

Liz Adams joined the Frederick Honors College in October 2022 as a member of our new advising team after serving as an academic advisor at Pitt for more than 30 years. Adams began her advising career in 1990 in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Department of Political Science. In 1995, when the College of Business Administration (CBA) opened and undergraduate business education returned to Pitt, Adams was the first academic advisor hired by CBA. She was promoted to director of CBA advising in 1997, holding that position for 25 years before coming to the Frederick Honors College last year. In her new role, Adams oversees all advising initiatives in our college while leveraging her vast advising experience and knowledge of the University of Pittsburgh to help us continue to build a strong advising team.



Diane Bova, Director of Administration

Diane Bova began her role in the Frederick Honors College in January. She comes to Pitt from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), where, for the past 10 years, she held a variety of administrative roles, including business director for the Office of Undergraduate Studies, office manager for the Honors College and special assistant to the vice provost for curriculum and academic programs. At FGCU, Bova served in university-wide leadership roles, including vice president of the Staff Advisory Council, chair of the Planning and Engagement Committee and a member of the university-level committees on Title IX and diversity and inclusion. She was recognized as Staff Member of the Year in 2017. Prior to joining FGCU, Bova had a career in health care administration and emergency planning in Vermont and served for five years as a financial aid counselor at Putney College.



Lauren DelSignore (SOC WK '14, EDUC '17G), Director of Dean's Executive Operations

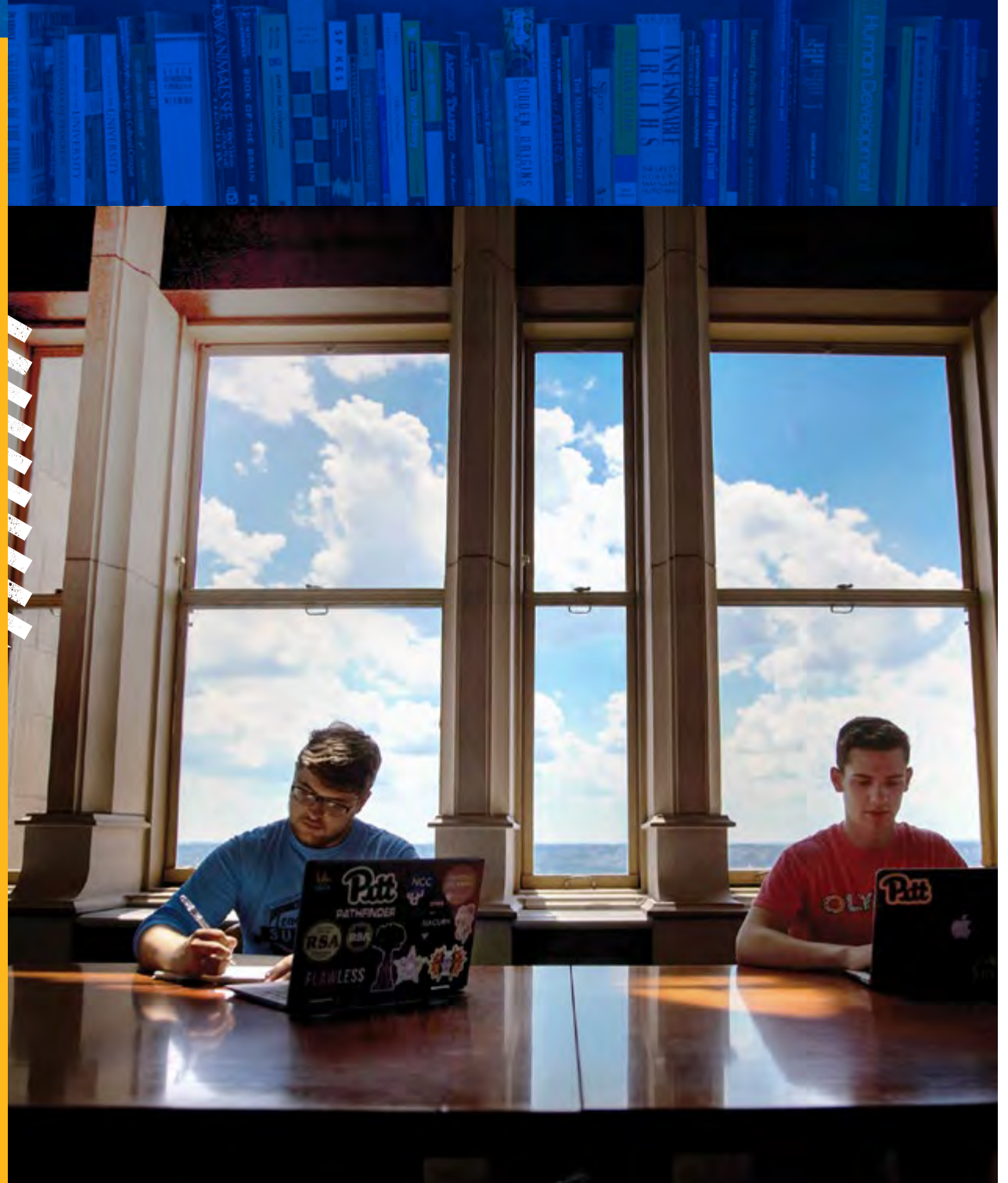
Lauren DelSignore started her career at Pitt in 2013, serving as a fundraiser in the now Division of Philanthropic and Alumni Engagement before transitioning to the payment processing department the following year. She joined the honors college in 2014 as a receptionist, then held the positions of office manager and assistant to the dean. In her new role, DelSignore supervises the front desk receptionist and the study space student workers. Additionally, she develops core strategic initiatives emanating from the dean's office and leads signature event planning, such as reorganizing our space ahead of the David C. Frederick Honors College naming ceremony and our spring Celebration of Excellence.

WE Elevate and Innovate

Our newest scholars, the Electus Faculty Fellows, facilitate signature course work.

The Frederick Honors College has a long history of offering uniquely interdisciplinary courses for Pitt's most engaged young scholars through the Faculty Fellows program. As part of this program, more than 50 remarkable thinkers from across the University teach distinct honors courses, mentor students in research and scholarship projects and promote Frederick Honors College special events.

In the fall 2022 term, that wealth of scholarship further developed in the form of the Electus Faculty Fellows program, a three-year fellowship that allows faculty members to develop signature honors courses and receive \$2,000 in annual professional development funding as well as a \$2,000 stipend for undergraduate program enrichment.



MEET OUR INAUGURAL COHORT:



Kar-Hai Chu, PhD

Kar-Hai Chu is a National Institutes of Health-funded researcher with a focus on leveraging innovative technologies to study tobacco control. He teaches HONORS 1510: Special Topics: Health Science Complexities, a course centered around providing students with examples of how decisions in health science are not always reached through logical processes or following the scientific method.



Michael Meyer

Michael Meyer, professor in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, has authored three critically acclaimed books, as well as numerous stories that have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, TIME and Smithsonian Magazine and on NPR's "This American Life." Meyer recently was honored with a Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Meyer teaches HONORS 1510: Special Topics: Immersive Nonfiction Writing, which acts as an intensive writing seminar along with a chance for students to explore a Pittsburgh neighborhood or trade, in which they learn the basics of reporting, workshop their writing and submit it for publication.



Piervincenzo Rizzo, PhD

Piervincenzo Rizzo is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering and is the first person worldwide to have received both the Achenbach Medal (2012) and the Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) Person of the Year Award (2015). He teaches CEE 1371: Bridge Health Monitoring, a course introducing students to the modern paradigm of SHM as it applies to engineering infrastructures and systems with a specific focus on bridges.



Teresa Hagan Thomas, PhD

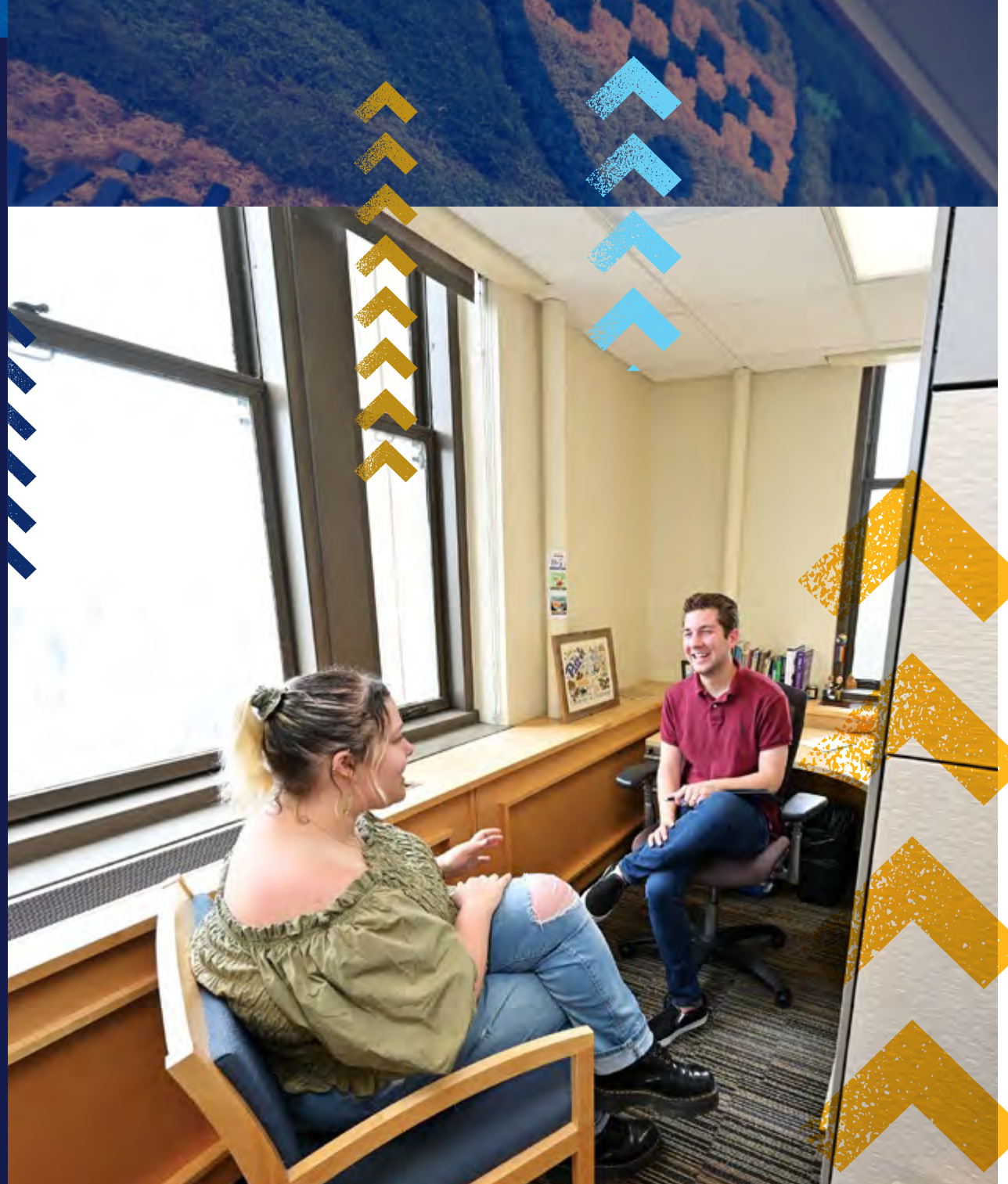
Teresa Hagan Thomas is an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and serves as the director of advocacy at the Family CARE Center at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital Gynecologic Oncology Clinic. She teaches HONORS 1510: Special Topics: Health and the City, a discussion- and service-learning based course designed to expose students to the root causes of poverty and poor health in Pittsburgh.

We Uplift

New academic advising team offers additional access to support services and resources for students. At the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year, the Frederick Honors College opened the doors to its new Academic Advising Center on the 34th floor of the Cathedral of Learning and filled the space with a team of dedicated advisors who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and commitment to student success. The new team is made up of Matt Rozycki, Jason Russell and Gail Wolfe, with Liz Adams taking the helm as director of advising and student success in March.

While all undergraduate students at the University have access to a robust program of personalized advising through their academic advisors in their primary schools of admission, each Frederick Honors College student now benefits from having an additional, dedicated honors college advisor.

Academic advising in the Frederick Honors College has distinct yet complementary goals to the support provided in a student's primary school of admission. Frederick Honors College advisors assist students in transitioning to Pitt and familiarizing them with the wealth of opportunities and resources offered in the Frederick Honors College, while connecting them to the people who are best positioned to further their goals.



MEET THE ACADEMIC ADVISING TEAM:



Matt Rozycki

Matt Rozycki (A&S '14) joined the Frederick Honors College in September 2022 as an academic advisor and helps to foster academic growth, intellectual challenge and socio-emotional well-being. As part of that mission, he aims to foster inclusion and belonging among all members of the Frederick Honors College and Pitt communities. Rozycki is a proud graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, and he has worked with international students across Pittsburgh, including in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, at Carnegie Mellon University and at LaRoche University.



Jason Russell

Before coming to the Frederick Honors College, Jason Russell served for 13 years as an academic advisor in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, where he built a breadth of experience in supporting students across a range of academic fields, including first-year, upper-division and transfer students. He also worked as the senior manager for recruitment and admissions at Per Scholas, where his mission was to increase job opportunities in technology for women and underrepresented groups. Along with working with students for the last 12 years, Russell has dedicated his time to growing girls flag football in Pittsburgh. He is the head coach for Moon Area High School girls flag football team as well as for his girls' travel flag football team, PFFL STEEL.



Gail Wolfe

Gail Wolfe joined the new academic advising unit in the Frederick Honors College in October 2022. She has spent most of her career in the classroom, including several terms as an adjunct instructor in Pitt's Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program. Her teaching experience across disciplines and grade levels has underscored for her the importance of building relationships for learning and growth with students, nurturing their curiosity and encouraging their agency inside and outside the classroom. She looks forward to bringing these practices, as well as her commitment to thinking and acting in ways that foster equity, belonging and justice on campus and beyond, to her work with students at Pitt.



We
Impact
Students
one
opportunity
at a time.





A

We organized opportunities for students to engage in small-group conversations and meet authors through our partnership with the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures series. Students participated in a Q&A session with Patricia Lockwood on Feb. 20, met with poet Joy Harjo after her Arts & Lectures presentation on March 27 (A) and engaged in an intimate discussion about the writing process with Dawn Brockett on April 3 (B).

Matt Rozycki and Gail Wolfe represented the Frederick Honors College on a panel at Pitt's annual Mentoring and Advising Summit.



B

We shaped new partnerships with on-campus mental health resources such as the Mental Health Consortium, Rainbow Alliance, Center for Creativity, University Counseling Center, Annie's Project and Stress Free Zone.

We supported members of the inaugural Frederick Honors College Student Council (C) in establishing a sustainable foundation and offering programs for Frederick Honors College students.

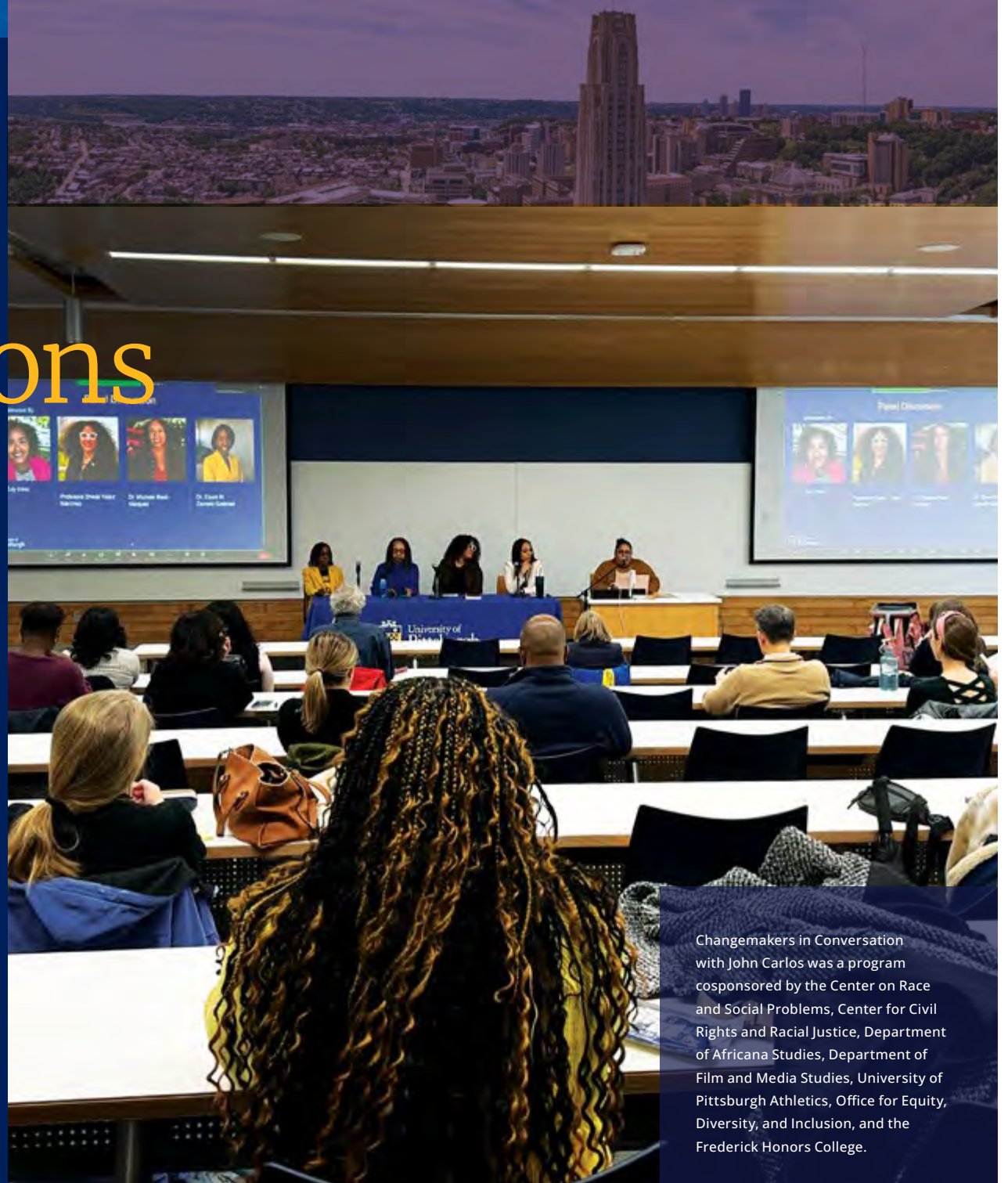


C

We Forge Connections

We build new innovative partnerships

across campus. A major part of the Frederick Honors College's growth has been in the form of strategic partnerships with other University units and departments to work within expanded communities of practice and strengthen our presence across campus. In the past year, we have worked with other campus partners—including the School of Social Work, the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid and the Office of University Communications and Marketing—and external partners such as Sutable to develop shared roles that advance our mission along with the University's.



Changemakers in Conversation with John Carlos was a program cosponsored by the Center on Race and Social Problems, Center for Civil Rights and Racial Justice, Department of Africana Studies, Department of Film and Media Studies, University of Pittsburgh Athletics, Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and the Frederick Honors College.



Ron Idoko (A&S '05, GSPIA '07), Associate Director for Honors Education in Social Innovation

Ron Idoko joined our team after 11 years at the University, having served in previous roles as the manager of alumni clubs and councils for the Pitt Alumni Association; as the diversity programs manager for Pitt's Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and as the founding director of the Racial Equity Consciousness Institute (RECI). Idoko's RECI role, shared with the School of Social Work, is designed to be complementary to his appointment as associate director of the Center for Race and Social Problems and enables him to share his talent for heightening awareness and training around equity, inclusion, and social justice. He primarily focuses on building the honors curriculum, research, and social engagement programs in the fields of social innovation and change.



Kait Long, Manager of Honors Outside the Classroom Curriculum

Kait Long has worked in secondary and higher education for more than 15 years. She has prior work experience as a high school English teacher at Quaker Valley High School, college counselor at Shady Side Academy and director of college counseling at Oakland Catholic High School. Most recently, Long worked at Sewickley Academy as the assistant director of college counseling and alumni relations coordinator. She also served as the service-learning coordinator and planned school-wide experiential education activities. In her new role, she manages the Honors Outside the Classroom Curriculum program, helping to identify and provide meaningful experiential and community-based opportunities for Frederick Honors College students.



Jarrod Lovelace, Manager of Recruitment

Jarrod Lovelace started at the University of Pittsburgh in September 2022 and works cooperatively with the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid to provide up-to-date information sharing and program coordinating. Additionally, his responsibilities include prospective student outreach, working with student ambassadors, traveling to high schools in the Pittsburgh region to talk to students and serving as a primary point of contact for any incoming and current students at Pitt who are interested in applying to the Frederick Honors College. Before coming to Pitt, Lovelace taught social studies and history and co-taught a collaborative class for six years in Allegheny County.



Shay Roth (PHARM '22, FHC '22), Forbes-Craig House Fellow

Shay Roth serves as our Forbes-Craig house fellow and will continue to do so for the 2023-24 academic year. Roth is a Frederick Honors College graduate and current doctoral student in Pitt's School of Pharmacy. As house fellow, she is the first point of contact for students residing in Forbes-Craig residence hall and liaises among Frederick Honors College, Panther Central and the Office of Residence Life. Roth collaborates with housing services and residence life assistants to ensure the smooth functioning of the community. She also directly coordinates both social and intellectual programs with Frederick faculty and staff.



Terry Rowley (A&S '10), Marketing and Communications Partner

Terry Rowley started working in this unique partnership between the Frederick Honors College and the Office of University Communications and Marketing (UCM) in August 2022. She works closely with experts in UCM to deliver impactful best practices in marketing and communications to the Frederick Honors College, particularly focusing on creating compelling and engaging content and developing and elevating the Frederick Honors College brand.

Philanthropy with the Future in Mind

This year, noted philanthropist and lawyer David C. Frederick paved a new trajectory for the honors college with a transformational gift and official naming of the college, while inspiring others, like John Martinson, to invest in Frederick Honors College students.



DAVID C. FREDERICK GIFT AND OFFICIAL NAMING

On July 6, 2022, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher announced a multimillion-dollar gift to establish the David C. Frederick Honors College at the University of Pittsburgh.

The commitment from David C. Frederick takes the form of an innovative agreement supporting Pitt's Honors College and also University College Oxford in England.

"David has filled his life, personally and professionally, with moments of impact. Now, his name is inextricably linked to a college at the University of Pittsburgh that is devoted to doing the same," Gallagher said. "Pitt honors students are exceptionally gifted and eager to make a difference—just like David. I am grateful for both his and Sophie's support, friendship, and continued investment in

our students, their academic careers and their lifelong success."

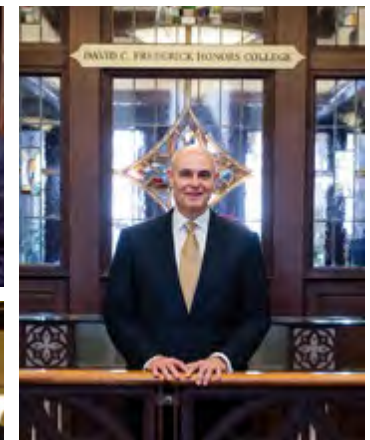
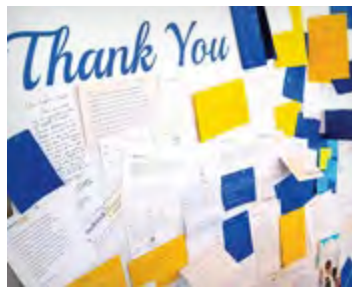
Frederick (A&S '83) is one of the country's most successful lawyers focusing on appellate litigation, having argued more than 100 appeals, including dozens that have risen to the U.S. Supreme Court. An alumnus of the honors college, he was Pitt's first Rhodes scholar, studying at Oxford from 1983 to 1986, and now he becomes the first donor to construct a gift supporting both the University of Pittsburgh and Oxford University.

"Sophie and I are delighted to participate in an innovative philanthropic model that benefits two important institutions where I spent many happy years as a student," Frederick said. "The University of Pittsburgh Honors College will derive substantial and enduring benefits from this arrangement, which also will ensure modern, multi-purpose facilities for University College, Oxford, where students

can flourish and deepen their sense of community with the college and city of Oxford. Our hope is that the project will enrich the educational experience in an inclusive way at both institutions for many decades to come.”

At the honors college, the gift will focus on students and fund high-impact learning experiences including study abroad and study away scholarships, stipends for internships and research experiences, and participation in academic and professional conferences. It also will support recruitment partnerships and mentorship programs for students from first-generation and historically underrepresented backgrounds including scholarships for students who graduate from honors programs at community colleges in Pennsylvania. The gift enables the honors college to build partnerships with Oxford to create a new set of educational opportunities for students.

This most recent gift to Pitt follows years of support from Frederick. He established the William Stanton Award in the Department of History in honor of his former professor, created the G. Alec Stewart Endowed Student Research Fund in the University Honors College to support undergraduate research projects, and established the William J. Keefe Congressional Fellowships. Through his generous gifts to the Frederick Fund, he has supported scholarships and public service internships for more than 60 students.



“ This gift will be absolutely transformative, Honors College Dean Nicola Foote said. It will significantly expand the range of learning opportunities available to honors students, allowing us to support a diverse body of intellectually ambitious students in an expansive range of unique enrichment experiences. The naming of the college is especially significant, as David Frederick in his own life story truly represents the embodiment of what an honors education can and should mean. I am honored, humbled, and delighted to lead the newly named Frederick Honors College. ”



Read the full article on Pittwire: [pi.tt/david-c-frederick](https://pittwire.pitt.edu/pi.tt/david-c-frederick)

MARTINSON GIFT AND FUTURE PLANS

Earlier this year, John H. Martinson, a noted philanthropist who has supported honors education across the country, officially committed to a \$2 million gift to the University of Pittsburgh David C. Frederick Honors College to be used to support experiential and co-curricular learning programs over the next five years.

“We could not be more pleased to receive this gift from John,” said Nicola Foote, dean of the Frederick Honors College. “It is validation that we are among the best honors colleges in the country, and it will help us become a premier honors college.”

Martinson earned a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master’s in astronautics from Purdue University. Upon graduating, Martinson reported for duty in Vietnam and flew an EB66 electronics jamming plane in support of bombing missions. He later flew a C141 cargo/passenger plane, including the second-to-last flight to leave Vietnam.

Soon after leaving the military, Martinson began a career in venture capital—first in a corporate setting and later as the head of his own firm. In retirement, he is focused on managing his personal portfolio and making program-changing philanthropic gifts focused on improving elementary school STEM pedagogy, growing honors colleges, and supporting technology upgrades at live performance theaters.



Martinson, who lives in Pennsylvania, visited public universities across the state. He was immediately impressed by Pitt’s research capacity, excellent breadth in engineering and sciences, strong liberal arts programs, and long honors program history.

“I also learned Pitt had recruited additional leadership and staff to accelerate the college and that it had attracted a lead donor [David C. Frederick, A&S ’83] who is very much involved with the University,” Martinson said. “So, I thought it was a good platform for me to add to the strong honors college foundation at Pitt.”

Martinson encourages others to make gifts to support education and says he enjoys hearing from the students who benefit from his philanthropy.

“Incredible vision, commitment, and intelligence oozes from these students, Martinson said. “I’m so fortunate to get to experience the very best we have in our young people.”

Mark Nootbaar, with permission from PAE



Read the full article
on pitt.edu:
pi.tt/martinson



HIS GIFT WILL OFFER SUPPORT IN FOUR KEY AREAS:

- 1 The John H. Martinson Elevate Award will provide funding for students to study abroad/away while participating in curated co-curricular experiences through the Honors Outside the Classroom Curriculum program.
- 2 The Martinson Applied Projects will offer support for undergraduate research through a series of hubs—run by faculty from across the University—for students to work on projects that will create new knowledge, inform action, or advance the public good.
- 3 The John H. Martinson Innovation Internship will create stipends for students pursuing internships at start-ups or within the innovation space more broadly.
- 4 The Martinson gift will provide additional support for Frederick Honors College staffing and technology to help implement the programs created with his gift.

DONORS SUPPORT FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE ON PITT'S ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING*

The Frederick Honors College was proud to participate in the seventh annual Pitt Day of Giving on Feb. 21, 2023. Throughout the day, we raised approximately \$11,600—more than double our goal—and unlocked a \$5,000 match from Board of Visitors member **Joel Hurwitz** (A&S '73), bringing our grand total to \$16,600.



* Those interested in becoming involved with our alumni network or in financially supporting the Frederick Honors College should contact **Kate Bowersox**, director of development, at kal68@pitt.edu.



Student and New Alumni Recognitions



Benjamin Ascuitto and Professor Dana Och

Benjamin Ascuitto (A&S '23, FHC '23) received the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Service Award for his "Pitt in Hollywood" podcast series, which aims to inform students that a career in entertainment is possible for them.



Sarah Hulse (A&S '23, FHC '23), a recipient of nearly every Frederick Honors College-signature fellowship, was offered a position as a clinical research coordinator for the Penn Medicine Department of Surgery.



Selam Mekbeb-Gillett was honored as a Campus Leader at A Night of Celebration: Honoring Local Heroes of Black Resistance.

All eight members elected to the **2023-24 University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board** have Frederick Honors College ties. Incoming president **Ryan Young** served as the president for the Frederick Honors Student Council this academic year. Seven Frederick Honors College degree students—**Sarah Siddiqui, Catherine Fitzpatrick, Sarah Mayer, Katie Emmert, Ashley White, Matt Jurich** and **Braydan Issermoyer**—as well as **Olivia Rosati**, a recipient of the David C. Frederick Scholarship, were elected as board members to represent and serve next year's student body.

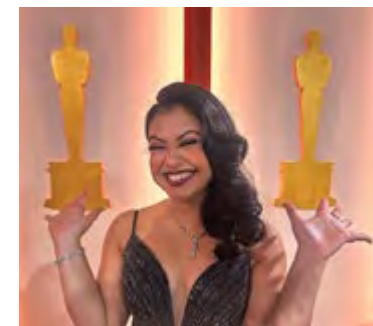


Ian Neumaier won the 2023 Disability Service Award from the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy.



Vidya Surti was elected to the Allegheny Regional Asset District citizen advisory board.

Aditi Sridhar was chosen through the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Academy Gold Rising Program to serve as only one of four student trophy presenters at the 95th Academy Awards, and is currently working on her latest film, "Aloo Poori."



Eli Ullman-Kissel participated in an extended summer 2022 Brackenridge fellowship at the CERN facility in Switzerland to do work with the Large Hadron Collider, conducting research on machine learning implementations in the Level-1 Trigger.



3

Dannial Cardillo is a winner of three federal scholarships: a Boren Scholarship, a Gilman Scholarship and a Critical Language Scholarship, and the Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship.



Office of National Scholarships and Post-Graduation Success

The Office of National Scholarships was relaunched with **Lesha Greene** at the helm in the role of director. In its restart year, the office saw tremendous success, including securing the first Mitchell Scholarship and Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship wins for Pitt. Lesha's team—made up of scholar mentors **Aidan Beatty**, **Joshua Cannon** (A&S'10), and **Dave Fraser**—helped Pitt to earn four wins in the inaugural Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service, also known as the Voyager Scholarship, the most from any public institution of higher education in the United States and fifth overall.

MEET PITT'S FIRST MITCHELL SCHOLAR

The University of Pittsburgh has a new name to add to its honor roll of high-achieving scholars. **Alex Firestine**, a senior in the David C. Frederick Honors College and College of Business Administration, has been named a 2024 George J. Mitchell scholar—the first in Pitt history.

The award is one of the country's most prestigious scholarship programs, offering fully funded postgraduate study in Ireland to 12 United States students annually. As a recipient of the Mitchell Scholarship, Firestine will pursue a master's degree in climate change, agriculture and food security at the University of Galway.

"I am proud to recognize Alex as the University of Pittsburgh's first-ever Mitchell scholar," said Chancellor Patrick Gallagher. "Even more, I'm proud of Alex's dedication to tackling some of society's most complex challenges. His future is bright, and I look forward to celebrating his successes and impact for years to come."

A Chancellor's scholar, Firestine is pursuing three majors—finance, accounting and business information systems—as well as certificates in business analytics and leadership and ethics. Outside the classroom, Firestine has pursued research, internship and employment experiences while working with industry leaders such



as KPMG and Deloitte as well as Food21, a local nonprofit dedicated to developing sustainable food systems in the greater Pittsburgh region. He is also a cofounder of PeerCommerce, a student-focused startup.

In 2020, Firestine received a Brackenridge Research Fellowship funded by Tina and David Bellet, which supports Pitt students as they conduct independent research or a creative project full-time over the summer. For his project, he worked on the development of the digital Food Abundance Index, which was created in 2011 by Pitt researchers as a way to measure regional food security across five dimensions using data collected on a physical scorecard. Firestine worked in collaboration with Food21 to develop a digital version of this scorecard, leveraging newly available data to calculate dimensions like food accessibility and density in a particular region. This project became the foundation for the Mid-Mon Valley assessment Firestine completed with Food21, which investigated causes of regional food insecurity in the Mid-Mon Valley. His work was published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

“ I am extremely proud that the work Alex Firestine is doing to address food insecurity using evidence-based data analytics has received this amazing recognition. His efforts will help both research and practice elevate solutions for creating resilient food ecosystems locally, nationally and globally. ”

Audrey Murrell, professor of business administration, psychology, public health and international affairs in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business

“Alex represents the epitome of a Frederick Honors student,” said **Nicola Foote**, dean of the Frederick Honors College. “He is pushing himself to pursue and create knowledge across multiple fields and using the insight he generates to serve others and create social change.”

Lawrence Feick, interim associate dean of Pitt’s College of Business Administration, commended Firestine on his community impact: “We are proud of his entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to helping and others, and his commitment to address some of society’s biggest challenges.”

Firestine has worked closely with his mentor Audrey Murrell, a professor of business administration, psychology, public health and international affairs in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, who has long recognized the important nexus of Firestine’s research.

“I am extremely proud that the work Alex Firestine is doing to address food insecurity using evidence-based data analytics has received this amazing recognition,” said Murrell. “His efforts will help both research and practice elevate solutions for creating resilient food ecosystems locally, nationally and globally.”

The Mitchell Scholarship won’t be Firestine’s first time abroad. He studied in Ireland before coming to Pitt and developed a knowledge of the Irish economy as well as an appreciation of the centrality of agriculture to Irish business. He said he sees the potential for that sector to grow and develop into a truly sustainable model that the rest of the world could emulate.

With the Mitchell, Firestine hopes to elevate his research to an international scale and facilitate the expansion of his academic career into a new field of agriculture and climate change.

“I strive to continue to work toward building sustainable food systems not only for the current generation, but also for future generations in the context of climate change,” he said. “Ireland acts as the perfect catalyst for this study, as the country is number two on the global food security index, yet currently experiences agricultural challenges with the onset of climate change.”

In light of this historic win, Firestine encouraged future scholars to pursue their passions and expose themselves to a diverse set of experiences.

“I also encourage future scholars to become involved with all of the resources that Pitt provides, especially through the Frederick Honors College and the College of Business Administration,” Firestine said. “Find a mentor (or two or three!) in your field who will provide you with guidance and support but will also challenge you to learn and grow. I attribute much of my success to the amazing mentors I’ve had throughout my time at Pitt.”

Aidan Beatty, a scholar mentor for the Frederick Honors College, along with **Leshia Greene**, the director of national scholarships, worked with Firestine, offering insight and feedback on scholarship applications.



“ Alex’s win as Pitt’s first Mitchell scholar is monumental and reflects his ability to think outside the box, said Greene. “Alex took advantage of the opportunities offered through the Frederick Honors College such as the flagship Brackenridge Research Fellowship and the unique, research-focused Bachelor of Philosophy degree to fine-tune his interests and set himself up for post-graduation success. We are very proud of him. ”

Leshia Greene, director of national scholarships



— Terry Rowley
pi.tt/mitchell

FOUR PITT STUDENTS—THREE FROM THE FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE—EARNED INAUGURAL VOYAGER SCHOLARSHIPS

Four juniors are among the first recipients of the Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service, also known as the Voyager Scholarship.

The initiative, created by the Obama Foundation and supported by Airbnb cofounder Brian Chesky, gives students who want to pursue a career in public service up to \$50,000 in financial aid as they finish college and a \$10,000 stipend for a “summer voyage” to gain exposure to new communities and experience in their field. The University of Pittsburgh tied with Howard University for the fourth-highest number of Voyager Scholarship recipients of any institution of higher learning in the country and the most of any school in Pennsylvania.

Pitt students **Yali Beit-Arie**, **Braydan Issermoyer**, **Kiera Ledermann** and **Sydney Wilhelmy** will have the opportunity to design their own summer voyages, which are work-travel experiences. In addition to having their summer voyages funded through the scholarship, the 100 inaugural scholars will receive financial aid for their junior and senior years of college and post-graduation benefits such as a 10-year travel stipend and access to the Obama Foundation’s network of speakers as they embark on their service-oriented careers.

Beit-Arie, Issermoyer, and Wilhelmy are dually enrolled in the David C. Frederick Honors College.

“The Obama Voyagers program seeks to identify students who are leaders, who are creative, collaborative and can work together with others from across the globe to solve the biggest problems facing humanity,” said **Nicola Foote**, dean of the Frederick Honors College. “It is a tremendous reflection on Pitt and [the] Frederick Honors [College] that we have four students among the initial cohort—more than almost any other public university. Each of the Pitt Obama scholars are dedicated to justice and equity and will be working on themes of urgent concern including immigration reform and migrant experiences, voting rights and urban sustainability. I am so proud of our winners and grateful for the work of the Frederick Honors College scholar mentors who supported our students through their application process.”

Lesha Greene, director of national scholarships and post-graduation success, lauded the recipients’ commitment to the public good, one of the tenets of the Frederick Honors College.

“This honor reflects the potential of Frederick Honors [College] and Pitt students to be change agents and leave the world a better place,” said Greene. “It is an amazing accomplishment to be a part of this inaugural class, and I can’t wait to see what they all do in the future.”



— Terry Rowley
pi.tt/voyager-scholars



Yali Beit-Arie



Braydan Issermoyer



Kiera Ledermann



Sydney Wilhelmy



PITT HAS BEEN NAMED A TOP PRODUCER OF FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENTS FOR 2022-23

The University of Pittsburgh has been named a Fulbright top producing institution for U.S. students for the 2022-23 academic year by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

This year's Fulbright scholars include two Pitt doctoral students, one undergraduate student and six recent graduates.

"This recognition extends a proud legacy at the University of Pittsburgh, and full credit goes to our hardworking scholars and the entire team at the David C. Frederick Honors College," Chancellor Patrick Gallagher said. "Now comes the fun part: watching these students take their skills and talents into the community and change society—for the better."

Fulbright is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is among the largest and most diverse exchange programs in the world. Since the program's inception in 1946, more than 400,000 participants from all backgrounds and fields—including recent university graduates, teachers, scientists, researchers, artists and others from the United States and more than 160 other countries—have participated to study, teach English and conduct research internationally.

"Pitt's recognition as a Fulbright top producer is stunningly exciting. It highlights the extraordinary accomplishments of our students and their commitment to solving global challenges," said **Nicola Foote**, dean of the David C. Frederick Honors

College. "It also reflects the incredible work of the scholar mentor team in the Frederick Honors College's Office of National Scholarships and Post-Graduation Success, who provide deep and attentive support to Fulbright applicants through every step of the application process."

Pitt's 2022-23 recipients began their fellowships in the fall and represent several Pitt schools, including the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Swanson School of Engineering and School of Education.

"Being recognized once again as a Fulbright top producer is a testament to the caliber of students we have here at Pitt and the support offered to students who apply through the institution," said **Lesha Greene**, director of national scholarships and post-graduation success.

Greene and her team of scholar mentors support students across the University in applying, preparing for and interviewing for prestigious national awards like the Fulbright. Fulbright applicants require the endorsement of the University, and they work with scholar mentors, leaning on their experience to craft the most competitive applications.

Pitt's 2022-23 Fulbright recipients are Emma Adams (Honduras), Robert Blankemeyer (Germany), Diana Flatto (Argentina), Benjamin Hudock (Brazil), Karenna Oner (Turkey), Meghan Orman (Iceland), Emma Ruppert (Kazakhstan), Sophie Sfeir (Spain) and Lauren Towner (Germany).



Lesha Greene with notable political strategist and chair of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, Donna Brazil

“Being recognized once again as a Fulbright top producer is a testament to the caliber of students we have here at Pitt and the support offered to students who apply through the institution, said **Lesha Greene**, director of national scholarships and post-graduation success.”



— Terry Rowley, abridged
with permission from Pittwire
pi.tt/fulbright22-23

SHE'S PITT'S FIRST-EVER RECIPIENT OF A PAUL AND DAISY SOROS FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS

When Anna Li's mother, father and older brother left China in 1996 for Chapel Hill, North Carolina, they had only \$20 in cash.

"Not only were they in a foreign country where they didn't know what was going on—they didn't speak English and they had no money," Li said. "I think they worked really hard to provide me with opportunities and allowed me to live a better life, as many immigrant stories go."

Today, Li is pursuing an MD/PhD with a focus on treating antibiotic-resistant infections in cystic fibrosis patients at the University of Pittsburgh. She's also the University's first-ever recipient of The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, an annual award that provides \$90,000 over two years to immigrants and first-generation students pursuing graduate education. She's among 30 recipients in the 2023 class of fellows, who were selected out of nearly 2,000 applicants.

Li said she's thankful for the award and wants to share her experiences to encourage others to seek out similar opportunities even if they're afraid it won't work out in their favor.

She didn't receive this fellowship the first time she applied to it last year, she said, but she's not afraid to laugh at herself and embrace and learn from failure.

"I feel like I really just had doors open for me, and then I just walked through," Li said. "There are so many people that are exactly like me that just don't have that opportunity. I don't see it as anything extraordinary about me. I think I have an incredible support network and I've been so lucky to have wonderful mentors [and] also opportunities. There are so many things at Pitt that have enabled me to become who I am."

In addition to her studies, Li is the founder and CEO of Korion Health, a startup developing an app that acts as a stethoscope, allowing patients to accurately monitor their vitals and relay that information to their doctor.

Li and her team have raised nearly \$100,000 in funding so far through venture funds, grants and competitions and are working on getting U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for their technology.

“There are so many things at Pitt that have enabled me to become who I am.”



Through her business, she hopes to empower patients, especially marginalized groups of people, to take control of their health care. Li said she's personally experienced and witnessed health care issues where emergencies and injuries were exacerbations of preventable conditions.

"And it was just frustrating to see the same issues come up over and over again," Li said. "There's also a lot of people that can't make it into a clinic, and there's not really any options for them."

This was especially true for survivors of sexual assault, she said, who often aren't comfortable getting undressed and being touched by strangers. The discomfort can lead to worse health care outcomes for these patients, she added.

Lesha Greene, director of national scholarships and post-graduation success in Pitt's David C. Frederick Honors College, assisted Li with her application essay for the fellowship. Greene, who is also an immigrant

from the Caribbean islands Saint Kitts and Nevis, said she's proud of Li for receiving the honor.

"It's a tremendous achievement. The win rate, it's not that high—less than 2%," Greene said. "So, I think that just speaks to not only her application but to who she is as an individual and the potential that she has to do great things in the future. Being a first-gen immigrant myself, that makes it even more sweet."

Greene said she hopes Li's achievements inspire students to take a risk and apply for similar opportunities, even if they don't feel like they are competitive applicants.

"I think, for the Pitt community, it means that anything is possible," Greene said about Li winning the fellowship. "And I think that just this just lets them know that hey, it's not only for people who go to the Ivy Leagues, but they are just as successful, and they have as much potential as anyone else."



Donovan Harrell, photo
courtesy of Anna Li
pi.tt/soros-new-americans

MEET PITT'S NEWEST GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

What's the most feared class on a college campus? Ask around and one answer you'll likely hear is "O-chem," the dreaded organic chemistry. But Grace Fleury — a junior University of Pittsburgh chemistry major and now a Goldwater Scholarship winner — has decided to make it her career.

"I honestly just find it so fascinating and exciting," Fleury said. "There's such a wide range of applications of what you can do with synthetic organic chemistry."

Fleury is Pitt's 64th winner of the award, which is the most prestigious scholarship aimed at STEM students and covers a year of tuition, books, fees and room and board. She's one of 413 winners this year out of a pool of more than 5,000 applicants.

"Grace has been selected for this honor based on her extraordinary research in organic chemistry, which offers a major step forward for cancer treatments based on antibody-drug conjugates," said Nicola Foote, dean of the David C. Frederick Honors College. "I am so proud of Grace and her incredible success and know that she will use this award to continue to push the boundaries of human knowledge."

Organic chemistry deals with molecules that contain carbon atoms, covering reactions that create medicines, plastics and other substances we rely on every day. Fleury's love of the field started when she was able to take a half-year organic chemistry course in her senior year of high school outside

Pittsburgh, two years before most science students even encounter the topic.

Now, she's an undergraduate researcher in the lab of Professor of Chemistry Paul Floreancig in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, where she studies a kind of molecule with multiple pieces that stick together or break apart depending on the presence of other surrounding chemicals.

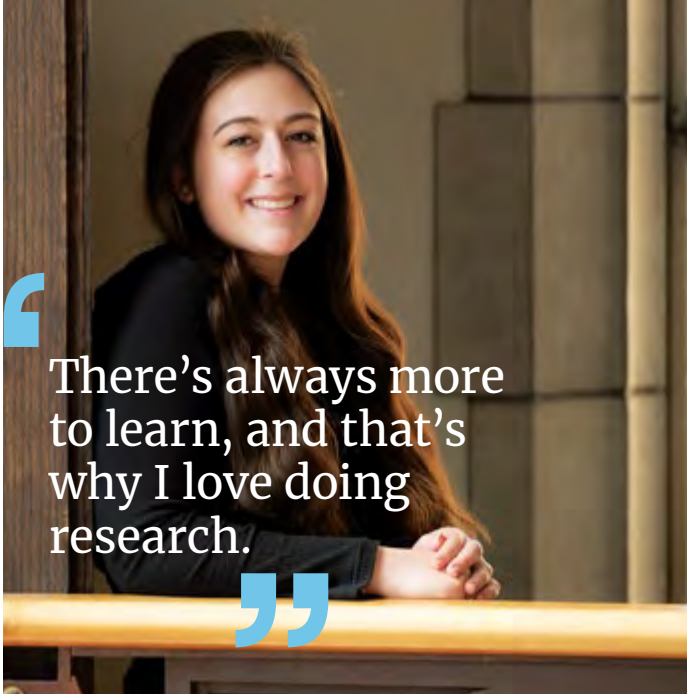
One application she's exploring is using these molecules to treat diseases. In this case, one end of the molecule contains the chemical key that gets it into a cell. "Then the other end would be some sort of therapeutic or cytotoxin, something that you want to get into just the diseased cells," Fleury said. "Then it breaks apart and delivers the drug or whatever else you want to put in there."

It was intimidating transitioning from classroom learning into the lab, she said, where she was met by a much bigger world of molecules and reactions. But she's found the opportunity exciting, too—and credits the environment in her lab with helping her find her footing as a researcher.

"There's always more to learn, and that's why I love doing research," she said. "I can't say enough good things about Dr. Floreancig. He's incredibly supportive, and his grad students are all so helpful. That's really made all the difference."

In between days in the lab, Fleury finds the time to be a teaching assistant for organic chemistry classes and participate in the breast cancer education and fundraising club Pink Warriors. She spent the last year as the club's fundraising chair, and next year she'll serve as president.

Frederick Honors College Scholar Mentor Dave Fraser worked with Fleury to develop her application materials for the Goldwater and said she has a



There's always more to learn, and that's why I love doing research.

strong sense both of research and of her broader potential impact as a scientist.

"Grace is far ahead of the curve," Fraser said. "She is a great writer and has a mastery of the work she is doing that is far beyond her undergraduate status."

Those are traits that will serve her well in her next steps. This summer, Fleury will participate in the Amgen Scholars Program at the California Institute of Technology, then plans to attend a PhD program and pursue a career as a professor in organic chemistry.

"I love to help people learn—I just get excited about it, and it makes me want to share it with more people," Fleury said. "I would love to run my own lab and be able to give the same support my PI gave to other people and do this really exciting research."



— Patrick Monahan,
photography by Aimee Obidzinski
pi.tt/Goldwater2023

FOUR PITT STUDENTS EARNED BOREN AWARDS TO STUDY LANGUAGE ABROAD

Joshua Cannon, a scholar mentor in the David C. Fredrick Honors College, is passionate about helping students with scholarship and fellowship applications—especially when they're Marines like him.

Cannon worked with three of the four University of Pittsburgh students who received Boren Awards this year to pursue foreign language studies abroad, helping them to craft their application essays.

The two Pitt graduate students who earned Boren Fellowships are **Joe Acevedo** in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, who will travel to Tajikistan to study Persian and **Joseph Patrick** in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Linguistics, who will study Serbian in Montenegro.

Undergraduates who earned Boren Scholarships include **Chris Bekavac** in the College of General Studies, who will head to Croatia in September to study Croatian for 10 months and **Griffin Mekler-Culbertson** in the Dietrich School's Department of Mathematics, who will study Russian in Latvia.

The awards, funded by the U.S. Department of State, give up to \$25,000 for language-focused study abroad programs, particularly in critical languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese and Swahili.

The scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students, while the fellowship goes to graduate



Joe Acevedo



Chris Bekavac



Griffin Mekler-Culbertson



Joseph Patrick

students to help them conduct research. In exchange for this financial support, Boren recipients commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after completing their studies.

Cannon hopes to see more scholarship opportunities for student veterans, as he believes veterans often come to college just to complete their studies.

"We're always interested in making people more aware of what the opportunities are and more aware of the fact that we help people achieve those opportunities," Cannon said.

Acevedo and Bekavac served in the Marines like Cannon. Cannon and Acevedo were both cryptologic linguists in the U.S. Marine Corps at different times, breaking encrypted radio signals and translating messages. Cannon specialized in Arabic, while Acevedo specialized in Russian.

Cannon, who works in Pitt's Office of National Scholarships and is also the campus representative for the Boren Awards, said he was proud to have helped this year's scholarship and fellowship recipients.

“I'm thrilled, he said. "It's just so exciting to see them be successful and to have had a small hand in it.”



We're always interested in making people more aware of what the opportunities are and more aware of the fact that we help people achieve those opportunities.

Joshua Cannon, scholar mentor, David C. Frederick Honors College



Donovan Harrell,
photography by Alex Mowrey
pi.tt/boren23

4 PITT STUDENTS WERE NAMED 2023 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARS

Four University of Pittsburgh students have been named 2023 Critical Language scholars, an immersive summer opportunity for American college students to make rapid language gains and essential intercultural fluency. Each will spend 8-10 weeks abroad.

Pitt's winners this year are as follows:

- ▶ **Jesse Biltz**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, will study Indonesian in Indonesia.
- ▶ **Dannial Cardillo**, a senior majoring in Chinese in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, is going to Turkey to study Turkish. During his time at Pitt, Cardillo has also won the Boren and Gilman scholarships.
- ▶ **Jordyn Kamasa**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, is going to the Middle East to study Arabic.
- ▶ **Hiba Siddiqui**, a junior in the David C. Frederick Honors College and Dietrich School majoring in psychology, will study Urdu in India.



Celebrating Achievements in a Year of Many Firsts



FIRST FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATION RECOGNITION CEREMONY

In a year of many firsts, the David C. Frederick Honors College celebrated its inaugural graduation recognition ceremony as an official degree-granting school within the University of Pittsburgh. Family and friends gathered on the tented lawn between Heinz Memorial Chapel and the Cathedral of Learning on Thursday, April 27, to celebrate Frederick Honors College graduates who earned the honors distinction, honors degree, or Bachelor of Philosophy.

Dean **Nicola Foote** introduced graduation speaker **David C. Frederick**, as well as the three student speakers, **Erikah Cudjoe**, **Alex Firestine**, and **Aditi Sridhar**. She also expressed her gratitude to **Lauren DelSignore** who planned the entirety of this meaningful event and to our staff members who helped to coordinate and prepare the graduation tent.



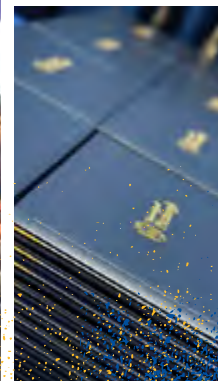
Erikah Cudjoe



Alex Firestine



Aditi Sridhar



FIRST NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS CEREMONY

On April 17, the David C. Frederick Honors College honored those students who earned prestigious national scholarships within this academic year at a ceremony and dinner held at the University Club. Award winners received certificates noting their achievements and were recognized by their peers, faculty mentors and University administrators.



CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Students who participated in research fellowships, national scholarship winners, ambassadors, community leaders and student employees were invited to attend the David C. Frederick Honors College's annual Celebration of Excellence, a dinner and informal recognition of their academic and co-curricular accomplishments. Approximately 100 student participants were joined by faculty mentors, Frederick Honors College staff members, and Board of Visitors members for a festive evening dedicated to them.



ELECTUS FACULTY FELLOWS

With the launch of the inaugural cohort, the David C. Frederick Honors College Electus Faculty Fellows have been recognized as pioneers and leaders in their disciplines as well as on-the-ground mentors for their students.

FHC ELECTUS FACULTY FELLOW EARNS CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Michael Meyer, an Electus Faculty Fellow in the David C. Frederick Honors College and professor of English in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, was honored with a Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award at this year's Faculty Honors Convocation by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher.

"Michael's dedication to the craft of teaching and his ongoing commitment to his students is undeniable," said Nicola Foote, dean of the Frederick Honors College. "Michael is extremely deserving of this accolade, a recognition of his status as an exceptional faculty member within our University community."

Meyer, who currently teaches an honors seminar for the Frederick Honors College, Writing about Place, spoke of the importance of receiving this year's award: "It's a recognition of the hard work my students have put into their writing. I run a rigorous classroom, set high standards, and teach skills that require practice—and often failure—before mastery. School is supposed to be hard!

A large part of my award dossier featured students' evaluations of our classes, their letters of support and final drafts of their deeply researched and oft-revised nonfiction writing. Their work evinces curiosity, empathy, and intellectual ambition. It's an honor to teach them."

In Meyer's Writing about Place seminar, students are reading nonfiction books that immerse the reader in a city — from Berlin to Athens to Pittsburgh — and writing about that city's corners and trades. He is also teaching an undergraduate senior seminar in which students are reading "Moby Dick," writing about paintings and fossils at the Carnegie Museums [of Art and Natural History] and mastering how to find and use primary sources and conduct interviews.

For Meyer, his teaching transcends the classroom: He promises students that his class comes with a lifetime warranty. Meyer offers to assist students who need help in other classes, for job interviews, and for applications to scholarships or graduate school. Meyer noted



that winning this award serves as a reminder that the University and the Frederick Honors College support his continuing work.

"It's exciting to watch a student become who they are," Meyer said. "Because I teach the series of core nonfiction writing courses, I often see students grow from first-years to seniors. It's an important reminder that we're all a work-in-progress and that progress isn't linear. It's a lesson I first learned in my previous life as a K-12 teacher and seeing that change. It doesn't stop at age 18."

Meyer, who was also recently awarded the Berlin Prize by the American Academy in Berlin, said that the current focus in higher education seems to be more on the "higher" than the "ed," and he advises the next generation of educators to restore the primacy of academics over athletics and administration. "But I would say that; I'm a teacher."



pi.tt/meyer-CDTA



FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT NIH AND FDA CAMPUSES

In late March, David C. Frederick Honors College Electus Faculty Fellow Kar-Hai Chu took students to visit the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) campuses. Students had a long discussion with Pam Marcus, a scientist at the National Cancer Institute. Her expertise is in cancer screening, so the students—armed with a term’s worth of medical system, health insurance, and cost-effectiveness readings—had a great talk with her about pros/cons and all the things we are doing right and wrong.

At FDA, students spent a few hours with Stephanie Pitts, who works in the tobacco policy branch. She offered a crash course on regulatory science, tobacco policy and nuances with vaping.

Chu reported that this opportunity, as an extension of his spring honors course, deeply benefitted the students and only laments that because Frederick Honors College students have so many classes and activities on their plates, a longer stay wasn’t possible.

ADDITIONAL FACULTY ACCOLADES



Mary Crossley, honors faculty fellow and Pitt law professor, discussed her latest book, “Embodied Injustice,” at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in January.



Adam Lowenstein, honors faculty fellow for our scholar community Horror Genre as a Social Force, was named a 2023 Guggenheim fellow.



Scholar mentor **Aidan Beatty** published his latest book, “Private Property and the Fear of Social Chaos,” through Manchester University Press.



Honors faculty fellow **Joe Samosky** received the Higher Educator of the Year Award from the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania.

ELECTUS FACULTY FELLOW RECEIVES MULTIPLE NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING ACCOLADES

Piervincenzo Rizzo was elected a fellow of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) in 2022 and received ASNT’s 2023 Research Recognition for Innovation.

Furthering the Frederick Honors College's Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

RON IDOKO AND SELAM MEKBEB-GILLETT RECOGNIZED AS LOCAL HEROES OF BLACK RESISTANCE

During Black History Month, Ron Idoko was recognized as a Social Justice Advocate for his creation of anti-racism initiatives such as the Racial Equity Consciousness program, and David C. Frederick Honors College junior Selam Mekbeb-Gillett was honored as a Campus Leader at the celebration A Night of Celebration: Honoring Local Heroes of Black Resistance. Idoko and Mekbeb-Gillett were only two of six champions for equity and inclusion chosen from more than 100 nominees.



FHC STAFF WELCOME STUDENTS AT FALL PRIDE ON THE PATIO

On a sunny day in October, new members of our advising team—**Gail Wolfe** and **Matt Rozycki**—along with Marketing and Communications Partner **Terry Rowley** and then-Assistant Director of Student Engagement **Parker Werns** set up the Frederick Honors College's first booth of the year at this event sponsored by the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. It was the first time for Wolfe, Rozycki and Rowley to engage with our local Pitt community, showcasing the Frederick Honors College's opportunities and commitment to inclusion to current and potential honors students. Frederick Honors College colleagues **Dave Hornyak**, **Dave Fraser** and **Liz Adams** joined in supporting the team as they helped answer student inquiries about our distinction, degree and BPhil pathways.



FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE CELEBRATES INAUGURAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT WITH PITTSBURGH AUTHOR DAMON YOUNG

At the end of 2022, what started as a brainstorm among David C. Frederick Honors College colleagues about how we should celebrate Black History Month manifested as our first “in conversation” event between Pittsburgh author Damon Young and Pitt English associate professor **Michael Sawyer**. On Feb. 13, students, staff, faculty and local community members gathered in Alumni Hall to hear Young, author of “What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Blacker,” and Sawyer discuss Young’s writing process, his identity as a Black writer and the social complications caused by racism.

The first 80 Frederick Honors College students to arrive at the event received free copies of Young’s memoir, while Young offered the entire audience a preview of his upcoming works.

The Frederick Honors College is deeply grateful to Young and Sawyer for launching this important dialogue around difficult topics as well as to our partners in the Center on Race and Social Problems for co-sponsoring this event.

LAUNCH OF THE OFFICE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HONORS EDUCATION

Led by Ron Idoko and his team of passionate students, Mary Angbanzan and Anie Ndoh, the social innovation program at the University of Pittsburgh is a groundbreaking initiative designed to inspire and empower students, faculty, and the wider community to collaboratively address pressing social challenges and foster a more just and equitable society. The program aims to create a dynamic, inclusive, environment that promotes transformative social change through its three key areas of focus: research, education, and praxis.

In a relatively short time, the social innovation team has created several signature initiatives designed to empower and educate students and the broader community:

The **Changemakers in Conversation** series is an engaging and thought-provoking event initiative, led by the Center on Race and Social Problems and Frederick Honors College Office of Social Innovation in Honors Education that features inspiring individuals who have made significant positive impacts in their respective fields, disciplines, or sectors. Through a fireside chat-style format, the series brings together change agents and the University community to explore the importance of using one's voice and platform to drive change and make a lasting impact on society. **Meet the first two speakers in the series:**



Gina Garcia is an award-winning author, public intellectual and host of the podcast "¿Qué pasa, HSIs?" Garcia provided audience members with an overview and motivation for her book, "Transforming Hispanic-Serving Institutions for Equity and Justice." She was joined by Michele Reid-Vazquez, Sheila Velez and Eboni Zamani-Gallaher in a conversation moderated by Zuly Inirio. They talked about decredentialing whiteness in higher education as well as emphasizing the need to redistribute resources and power to communities of color and how it's being done at the University of Pittsburgh. Although the University of Pittsburgh is not a Hispanic-serving institution, there is still work that can be done to better serve the community of color.



John Carlos, the former U.S. track and field athlete, made history with his powerful protest at the 1968 Summer Olympics. Carlos' silent demonstration, along with Tommie Smith, brought attention to the ongoing racism and economic depression in America and made him a symbol of the civil rights struggle. Carlos engaged in conversation with Ron Idoko and the community, walking us through his journey and sharing his reflections on advocacy for social change.



Let's Talk Social Innovation is a dynamic and interactive event series designed to create a platform for meaningful conversations around the pressing social issues of our time. This program also allows for students to share ways in which the Frederick Honors College can position students to be included in these conversations.

The mission of the **Changemaker's Media Lab** is to ideate and create transformative media that inspires, influences, and empowers people to reimagine and redesign their lives, communities, and systems toward positive social change. In spring 2023, with a team of five students from the Film and Media Studies Program, the social innovation team filmed, edited and produced six videos. The videos allow for both those in attendance and at home to understand how to work toward positive social change. The videos were the "How Does It Feel to be a Problem?" film screening, In Conversation with Damon Young, the Momeyer Lecture featuring Temple Grandin, Changemakers in Conversation with John Carlos, Ron Idoko receiving the Social Justice Advocate award at A Night of Celebration: Honoring Local Heroes of Black Resistance and the "Black Star, Crescent Moon" book discussion with author Sohail Daulatzai.



Office of Research Expands with New Research Partnerships, Symposium and Fellowship Opportunities



Brett Say, director of honors research programs at the University of Pittsburgh David C. Frederick Honors College, has had an extremely busy year advancing the work that his office does, particularly in forging new partnerships across the University. The Frederick Honors College Office of Research oversees seven formal fellowship programs annually that range in individual student support from \$800 to \$4,000. In addition to these formal programs, Say's office provides several additional financial support options for student research activities, such as the Frederick Honors College Travel Award, and collaborates with Pitt's Global Experiences Office to provide students with opportunities to conduct research abroad.

This year, the Office of Research focused on expanding University collaborations and building new relationships within and beyond the Pitt community. Highlights of these collaborations include a collaboration with the provost's office that produced a McNair Scholarship Program award for the University of Pittsburgh, collaborations with the Carnegie Museum of National History and a new undergraduate fellowship program with Pitt's Humanities Center.

Moreover, the Office of Research began building programs that will enable the honors college to scale research opportunities so that any student who is curious in research will be able to understand more about what it looks like in their field. These programs include



Brett Say,
director of honors
research programs,
David C. Frederick
Honors College



the pilot of Frederick Honors College Research Hubs, which bring together small teams of students to work on applied research projects across disciplines, as well as a research peer mentoring program that pairs first-year students with more advanced students who have already begun conducting research in their areas of interest. These programs are slated to further develop in the 2023-24 academic year. More than \$400,000 in support was provided to students pursuing research experiences.

This year, students in the Frederick Honors College conducted research ranging from the development of new health interventions to understanding how art can be used to advocate for important social change, making real-world impacts in the arts, social sciences, humanities, and STEM fields.

FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE DEVELOPS TWO NEW CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURE)

In collaboration with the University's Office of Research and the Swanson School of Engineering, the Frederick Honors College is developing SHURE with the Idaho National Laboratory, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. This program will fund eight students for an interdisciplinary research experience focused on applying cyber-informed engineering and policy work to create new knowledge and inform action related to cyber security and power system operation.

Social Change Research Hub (SCRH)

The Social Change Research Hub is a collaborative initiative among the Frederick Honors College Office of Research, the Frederick Honors College Office of Social Innovation and the Center on Race and Social Problems. SCRH aims to offer undergraduate honors students the opportunity to engage in equity-centered research, education, and praxis by working with fellow students, faculty, and staff to investigate and develop interventions that promote social change.

FREDERICK HONORS COLLEGE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM FEATURES NEARLY 90 STUDENTS' WORK

Throughout the academic year, David C. Frederick Honors College students across disciplines, including those working toward the prestigious BPhil degree, conduct research and produce creative works that they hope to feature at the annual Frederick Honors College Research Symposium. This year's symposium, held on April 6 at the University Club, showcased nearly 90 students in person, the largest number of student participants, with more than 150 attendees who engaged with presenters, learning and asking questions about their research.

Visitors also had the opportunity to attend a virtual iteration of the fair. Since its launch, more than 650 people have visited the virtual symposium with more than 1,200 unique views.

This year's virtual symposium will be available online until April 2024 and can be visited at: pi.tt/FHCsymposium23

RETURN OF THE PITTSBURGH UNDERGRADUATE REVIEW

In 2021, the Pittsburgh Undergraduate Review (PUR), an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal with more than 30 years of history, returned to publication after a multi-year hiatus. In August 2022, after a spring and summer of planning, the editorial board announced the publication of the second issue of the newly imagined PUR, coinciding with the official naming of the David C. Frederick Honors College. **David C. Frederick** was one of the founding student editorial board members of the Pittsburgh Undergraduate Review. This latest issue has been viewed online nearly 6,000 times and can be accessed at:
<http://www.pur.pitt.edu/pur/issue/view/2>

TRIO MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The University of Pittsburgh David C. Frederick Honors College worked with the Office of the Provost to support a proposal that culminated in Pitt's receiving a McNair TRIO Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

HUMANITIES CENTER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

In partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center, the David C. Frederick Honors College Office of Research developed a sponsored fellowship. This program consists of a spring seminar, in which students develop a research project; a summer research experience funded by a \$5,000 stipend; and a fall seminar, in which fellows craft their research outcome. Each fellow is connected to a mentor with experience in their field of inquiry.

Of the eight undergraduate research fellowship recipients, six are Frederick Honors College students: **Harmony Arungwa, Meghana Dodda, Matthew Hickey, Anna Kirwin, Alex-Jaden Peart** and **Vidya Surti**.

Read the full Pittwire article: pi.tt/HCURF23





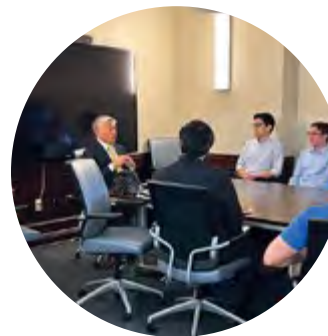
Preparing Student Leaders for Tomorrow's Challenges

COLLABORATION IN APPLIED LEADERSHIP SERIES

Early in the spring term, the David C. Frederick Honors College partnered with the nationally renowned Leadership, Diplomacy, and National Security Lab at Arizona State University to create a Washington, D.C.-based leadership development series available to honors students interested in learning about a character-driven leadership approach.

Twenty-two Frederick Honors College students participated in a series of immersive experiences aimed at allowing them to master the key concepts and interrelationships of values, ethics, and leadership. Students received a private tour of the Gettysburg battlefield led by retired U.S. Lieutenant General Benjamin Freakly in late February and visited Washington, D.C., taking an unexpected walking tour with Board of Visitors member Anna Quider. They also toured the houses of Congress, ate lunch with the chaplain of the House Margaret Kibben, and participated in one final leadership seminar with Freakly and Michael Polt, Arizona State University ambassador-in-residence, professor of practice and co-founder of the Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab.

SPECIAL VISIT FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY JOHN TIEN



Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security John Tien visited Pittsburgh on Sept. 19 to give a keynote address at the 2022 Eradicate Hate Conference. Tien, a Rhodes scholar, spoke with David C. Frederick Honors College students who were applicants for and winners of Rhodes, Marshall and other major national scholarships. During his conversation with students, he described the path of the honors student as one without limits, a space for philosophical and moral growth to take place in order to have intellectual energy to fight the world's fight. The Frederick Honors College's students and staff are grateful for Tien's time and willingness to facilitate meaningful discussion around real-world topics for our nation's future leaders.







University of
Pittsburgh®

David C. Frederick Honors College

3600 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-624-6880
Fax: 412-624-6855
honors@pitt.edu

frederickhonors.pitt.edu

