2021-2022

Annual Report

Academic Honors and Fellowships

Photo by Tommy Nguyen, Schaeber Fellow '20, CSPC Fellow '21 & Fulbright ETA to Vietnam 2022-2023.

Taken before Sunset while trekking the Arches National Park in Moab, Utah.
Fighting Onward

After a year and a half of participating in learning and university events remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students, faculty and staff returned to campus in the 2021-2022 academic year. This year presented opportunities for adjustments, creativity, and meaning making within the “new normal”. Inspired by President Folt’s vision for a more sustainable USC, we partnered with the USC Office of Sustainability to recognize and celebrate undergraduate research across awards and events. Blending academic continuity with a fresh perspective, we were able to provide students with the unique experiences they sought when they applied and ultimately committed to USC.

USC Academic Honors and Fellowships (AHF) presents this annual report in celebration of the year’s honorees, our dedicated faculty partners, and the enriching academic journey traveled together as we navigated times of uncertainty and change. The students featured in this report have showcased their talents and sought out unique opportunities to expand their educational experience and make the most of their undergraduate years. The role of the AHF staff is to engage students early and often and support them in:

• clarifying their ambition through engagement in high-impact practices,
• developing skills in critical thinking and reflection, and
• building meaningful relationships with faculty, staff, and their peers.

USC students study across academic disciplines and share achievements in the arts, writing, and research through Academic Programs’ Signature Events, including the USC Welcome Experience Micro-Seminars and the Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work. As they continue at USC, our students study abroad and lead research projects, producing work that is recognized with academic honors upon graduation. Finally, as they graduate, our students pursue post-graduate fellowships across the globe to apply their academic learning on an international level.

This document recognizes our awardees, the faculty who partnered with us in mentoring them, and the continued support AHF has provided through these times of uncertainty. Our Trojan community has and will continue to fight onward.

Andrew McConnell Stott
Vice Provost, Academic Programs
Grounded in the mission of Academic Programs, USC Academic Honors and Fellowships (AHF) supports students in their pursuit of transformative academic experiences.

We offer advisement, programming and resources that encourage the exploration and attainment of high-impact experiential learning opportunities.

We partner with USC faculty, staff and alumni to support applicants throughout prestigious fellowship application processes that require evaluation, endorsement and feedback.

We also advise the Trojan Scholars Society student association to promote a vibrant scholarship community.

The Numbers

47 external scholarship & fellowship recipients in 2022

22 Fulbright recipients for the 2022-2023 grant year

398 USC Scholar Distinction recipients in 2022

200+ faculty and staff partners

I wanted to thank you so much for your effort, time and support throughout the Marshall process. I know the university notes the Marshall process is rigorous and intense. While this was true, the efforts of AHF and the committee made it, above all else, genuinely enjoyable. Whether or not I get the scholarship, I am grateful for the narrative it helped me construct.

SAMEER NAIR-DESAI ’20
Marshall Scholarship Applicant 2021

Meet Our Staff

Katie Capra
Manager

Caitlin Marinovich
Student Programs Advisor

Frances Nowlen, Stamps Scholar and 2022 Fulbright Recipient
Inspired by President Folt's vision for a more sustainable USC, sustainability became a throughline in all of our signature events this year. 10 of our 60 micro-seminars focused on sustainability. During Fall Research and Fellowships Week, Dr. Jill Sohm, Associate Professor of the Environmental Studies Program, presented on sustainability research and funding opportunities for students at USC. We also opened new prize categories in Sustainability for the Undergraduate Writers' Conference and Undergraduate Symposium in partnership with the USC Office of Sustainability. First prize recipients at each events included Mane Berikyan for her work titled, "Dictators are Bad for the Environment" and Rachel Ablondi, Anna Curtis, Nicole Carrera, Carolyn Koh, Kelley Green, and Jessica Zhang for their project titled, "USC Sustainability Hub".

Transfer Student Soul Search is a large, comprehensive campus resource project designed to enhance and enrich transfer students' undergraduate experience. It was developed by Professors Amanda Bloom and Tamara Black in partnership with the Transfer Student Assembly and several departments across campus. Here, Katie Capra and Hector Reyes, a transfer student and Knight-Henessey Scholarship Recipient, discuss fellowships for the #Explore module of the series.
USC Awards

USC recognizes the outstanding abilities of its undergraduate students and has created various opportunities to financially support students in their pursuit of interdisciplinary study, global exchange, and civic engagement. Here are a few of the unique opportunities facilitated by Academic Honors and Fellowships that are available to USC undergraduate students.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Academic Achievement Award (AAA) provides a tuition benefit to students who have at least sophomore standing and have earned a cumulative USC GPA of at least 3.75. The award allows Fall or Spring registration of up to 21 units at the standard full-time tuition rate, so students can complete multiple undergraduate degree objectives without adding to their time-to-degree.

With the return to in-person learning, AAA applications still exceeded pre-pandemic levels. 780 undergraduates across a variety of disciplines were awarded $3.5 million dollars in funding so they can complete over 18 units within one semester.

LEONARD D. SCHAEFFER FELLOWS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service program exposes talented undergraduates to government work and its impact through high level internships at the local, state, and federal levels.

In 2021, ten USC students joined a national cohort of 45 Fellows for remote, hybrid, or in-person internships in offices including the U.S. Department of State and California Department of Justice.

Program benefits included internship placements, an alumni mentor for each Fellow, a $5,000 stipend, and a virtual Fall Recognition event with guest alumni and Provost Zukoski. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the national program hosted a virtual Schaeffer Fellows Summit Series.

Schaeffer Fellows Fall Recognition event with program alumni, Mr. Schaeffer, and the USC Provost, Charles Zukoski.
Signature Events

Research & Fellowships Week

Open to students of all academic levels, Research and Fellowships Week offers interactive sessions and panels highlighting opportunities for research, graduate study, language learning, teaching and internships within the U.S. and abroad. The 7th Annual Research and Fellowships Week on November 1-5, 2021 offered both in person and virtual sessions with a special welcome message from Dr. Puri, Vice President of Research. Session highlights include First-Gen Researchers: Opportunities and Mentorship, and Writing and Reviewing Letters of Recommendation for Equity, a partnership event with USC Graduate School.

Undergraduate Writers’ Conference

The Undergraduate Writers’ Conference provides students with a forum to submit original work and engage in small group discussions with peers. The 19th Annual Undergraduate Writers’ Conference on March 30, 2022 consisted of faculty-led small group discussion sessions, a student panel of past UWC winners, a Creative Publishing Panel, and an open mic. A keynote and awards ceremony was held on March 31, 2022 and headlined by author Dawn Anahid MacKeen. This year, there were 203 submissions from 14 different schools and 76 unique majors. 82% of the individuals who participated submitted to the contest for the first time.
Undergraduate Symposium

Now in its 24th year, the **Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly & Creative Work** provides students with the unique opportunity to exhibit and share examples of their research with the university community. For the last two years, the Symposium was held virtually due to COVID restrictions, but this year we were able to host the event in person on April 12, 2022 and the award ceremony on April 13, 2022. Students submitted projects themed around a broad category of study, including Arts & Architecture; Humanities; Life Sciences; Physical Sciences, Mathematics & Engineering; and Social Sciences. The Symposium exhibited **66 undergraduate submissions** with participation from **96 students**. Works were evaluated by **39 faculty judges** across nearly all USC schools.

Micro-Seminars

Occurring over two sessions during Fall USC Welcome Experience, Micro-Seminars give incoming first-year students the opportunity to become familiar with college-level discussions. Students engage over specialized topics in small-group sessions led by USC faculty members. For Fall 2021, AHF hosted **60** virtual and in-person Micro-Seminars with faculty from nearly all USC Schools. More than **1000** incoming first-year students participated, and evaluations indicate **99%** student satisfaction with their learning experience.
Commencement Honors

The USC selection process for Valedictorian and Salutatorians recognizes students who have attained the highest levels of academic achievement. It is also holistic and takes into consideration other components such as service and leadership. This year 80 graduating students who had earned a cumulative USC grade point average (GPA) of 3.980 or higher were invited to apply.

The 2022 USC Valedictorian and Salutatorians are:

- **Adam Karelin** | Composition (B.M.)
- **Andrew Binder** | Philosophy, Politics, & Law (B.A.)
- **Shreya Daniel** | Health & Human Sciences (B.A.)

**USC PROVOST AWARD** is granted to graduating seniors who have attained the highest scholarship average (4.0 GPA) of all undergraduate transfer students at the University.

- Marissa Anderson
- Flor Bojorquez
- Madison Bradfield-Davis
- Mariana Buxton
- Jennifer Dam
- Cassandra Friedlich
- Dylan Goodale
- James Hansen
- Benjamin Heid
- Chynna Hinrichsen
- Audrey Kato
- Jennifer Lee
- Clover Li
- Preston Long
- Hana Roushdy
- Jennifer Simonell
- Natasha Singh
- Paris Smith
- Christina Steffan
- Tommy Taheri
- Milagros Vidal
- Zijie Wang
- Joshua Williams
- Felicia Wulandari
- Haoda Yang
- Abigail Yosian
- Zhiting Yuan
- Candice Yun
- Samantha Zenoz
- Xixiao Zhou

**UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES AWARD** is granted to graduating seniors who have attained the highest scholarship average (4.0 GPA) for their entire undergraduate course of study at USC.

- Mohammad Abdelkhaleq
- Heather Cherniss
- Ciara Collins
- Alexander Cooper
- Shreya Daniel
- Matthew Evenson
- Evelyn Ha
- Shreya Harappanahally
- Rachel Heil
- Nikki Jafarzadeh
- Abigail J arvis
- Abegail J avidzad
- Luci Jiang
- Andrew Kinoshita
- Rohan Kota
- Mary La Blanc
- Zazu Lippert
- Arianna Lopez
- Sabrina Panfil
- Stephen J on Du Quiton
- Lauren Sanders
- Cole Schroeder
- Sean Silvia
- Matthew Slade
- Rohan Srinivasan
- Alexander Vu
- Anthony Wienceko
- Ruby Wilks
- Trisha Willie
- Katherine Wong
- Tianyu Zhang
- Joy Zhu
Renaissance Scholars, Discovery Scholars, and Global Scholars are academic honors that recognize graduating seniors. Scholars receive a medallion for graduation, have their distinction noted on their final transcript, and can apply for consideration for the Prize Competition. Each year, ten students from each of the three distinctions are selected for a $10,000 prize towards graduate study.

**STEVEN AND KATHRYN SAMPLE RENAISSANCE SCHOLARS** recognizes undergraduate students who have excelled in their studies while completing a major and a minor (or two majors) in widely separated fields of study. For the 2021-2022 cycle, USC recognized 299 Renaissance Scholars, and 10 have been selected as prize recipients.

- Evelina Bao, Psychology (B.A.); Computer Science (B.S.); Cinematic Arts minor
- Erela Datuowei, Health & Human Sciences; French (B.A.)
- Huiyeon Eim, Philosophy; Data Science (B.A.)
- Adam Karelín, Composition (B.M.); Linguistics minor
- Susan Kishi, Neuroscience (B.S.); Musical Studies minor
- Emily Kuo, Electrical & Computer Engineering (B.S.); Music Production minor
- Kirian Mischke-Reeds, International Relations & the Global Economy (B.A.); Environmental Studies minor
- Amrita Singh, Astronautical Engineering (B.S.); Theatre (B.A.)
- Selin Yalcinkaya, Psychology; French (B.A.); Theatre minor
- Katherine Yang, Media Arts & Practice (B.A.); Computer Programming minor; Linguistics minor

**GLOBAL SCHOLARS** recognizes students who have excelled in their studies both at home and abroad. Students must spend at least 10 weeks abroad and complete a capstone project related to their international experiences. For the 2021-2022 cycle, USC recognized 19 Global Scholars, and 7 have been selected as prize recipients.

- Serena Allen, Public Policy (B.S.)
- Sam Anderson, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Alexis Campbell, Business Administration (International Relations); Accounting (B.S.)
- Leena Mathur, Computer Science (B.S.); Linguistics; Cognitive Science (B.A.)
- Luis Rodriguez-Perez, History; Archaeology (B.A.); Classics minor
- Nina Tanaka, Music Industry (B.S.)
- Justin Wan, Architecture (B.Arch.)

**DISCOVERY SCHOLARS** recognizes students who have made a meaningful contribution to their field of study. Students must present original research or creative projects representing the culmination of their academic studies. For the 2021-2022 cycle, USC recognized 80 Discovery Scholars, and 10 have been selected as prize recipients.

- Sameer Ahmed, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Studies (B.S.)
- Jeremy Barajas, Psychology (B.A.); Social Work & Juvenile Justice minor
- John Casey, History; Latin American & Iberian Cultures (B.A.)
- Joseph Debaerien, English (Creative Writing) (B.A.)
- Annelise Haukenes, Performance (Violin) (B.M.); Dance minor
- Abigail Jarvis, Linguistics; Spanish (B.A.)
- Madeleine Nations, Central European Studies (B.A.); Cultural Diplomacy minor
- Jose Ignacio Onrubia, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Stephen Quiton, Chemical Engineering (B.S.); Applied & Computational Mathematics (B.A.)
- Sean Silvia, History; Archaeology (B.A.); Classics minor
**Fellowship Highlight**

**FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM**

Academic Honors and Fellowships has developed an extensive advising and evaluation process for USC applicants of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The grant provides one year of funding for recipients for graduate study, to conduct research or teach English in one of over 140 countries around the world.

Applicants who submitted through USC participated in the faculty panel campus evaluation process and took advantage of USC Fulbright resources such as the spring writing workshop series and summer individual advising sessions. This year, AHF supported 73 students who applied through USC for the Fulbright U.S. Student program. Of these applicants, 37 were selected as semi-finalists, and 22 were ultimately chosen as 2022-2023 grant recipients across 11 different countries.

### 2022-2023 USC Fulbrighters Overview

**Grant Type**
- 17 English Teaching Assistantships
- 2 Research Awards
- 1 Binational Internship Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree level</th>
<th>Academic status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Bachelors</td>
<td>15 Current students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Masters</td>
<td>7 Alumni</td>
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**The Faculty Perspective:** “The fellowship application process is a journey. It requires a lot of patience and commitment to achieve the level of self-awareness and self-discovery necessary to create an application that is both authentic and competitive. But our candidates impress me every year, and I love being part of their support system, from the drafting workshops we host in the spring, to one-on-one summer advisement, to the Campus Evaluation Committees in the fall.”

*Tamara Black, Associate Professor (Teaching) of Writing, The Writing Program*
In Their Words

Students reflect on their experiences applying for fellowships and discovering their passions.

Goldwater Recipient (2020), Astronaut ScholarshipRecipient (2021), NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient (2022), Global Scholar Prize Recipient (2022)

My experience at USC has been greatly enriched by the AHF Office’s invaluable guidance toward the Boren application process that instilled the confidence vital to craft our unique career narratives and envision how language learning (Mandarin Chinese) enhances our future professions in the military and industry. Being able to travel to Taipei, Taiwan under the Boren Scholarship has not only allowed us to continue our journey in gaining high levels of foreign language proficiency but also to develop intercultural communication skills required for future Military Officers.

Boren Scholarship Recipients (2021-22)

The AHF Office has provided us with invaluable guidance toward the Boren application process that instilled the confidence to craft our unique career narratives and envision how language learning (Mandarin Chinese) enhances our future professions in the military and industry. Being able to travel to Taipei, Taiwan under the Boren Scholarship has not only allowed us to continue our journey in gaining high levels of foreign language proficiency but also to develop intercultural communication skills required for future Military Officers.

Fulbright Binational Internship Program Recipient (2022-2023)

I heard about Fulbright through seniors in Delta Phi Epsilon, USC’s first and only international relations society. My Freshman year I felt that the binational business would be a great opportunity to explore the fields I had been studying the past couple years. I discussed my application with my professor and looked at the templates from the AHF Office of previous USC student applicants. When it came to the campus faculty committee, their feedback helped me better explain key points on my resume while I knew everything I had done in the past four years needed to do a better job of explaining that on paper to a committee that had no idea who I was or what I had accomplished.
Fellowship Recipients

**BOREN SCHOLARSHIP**

Katherine Curry, Senegal (French & Wolof)
Robert Scalia, Senegal (French & Wolof)
Claire Schreder, Tanzania (Swahili)
Viet Văn, China (Mandarin)

**CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP**

Eujean Doo, Undergraduate Student – Korean
Thomas Martynowicz, Undergraduate Student – Portuguese
Christina McBride, Undergraduate Student – Chinese
Sean Silvia, Undergraduate Student – Turkish

**FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM**

Zakaria Ali, Spain (ETA)
Blake Amann, Uzbekistan (ETA)
Holden Anderson, Spain (ETA)
Olivia Benoit, Finland Graduate Study
Lan Duong, Argentina (ETA)
Claudia Ellis, South Korea (ETA)
şimha Garbuio, Taiwan (ETA)
William Groffi, Mexico (ETA)
Park Ha, South Korea (ETA)
Rebecca Homan, Spain Graduate Study
Emily Hsi, Taiwan (ETA)
Kōta Shinaguchi, Taiwan (ETA)

**GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

Andrea Arcia, Italy
Kiran Bourget, France
Elizabeth Cruz, Italy
Michelle Gong, South Korea
Helen Guo, Australia
Jose Gutierrez Jr., Greece
Angelynn Huang, United Kingdom
Aaron Kirk, Botswana
Lillian Leonard, Italy
Elizabeth Mensah, Italy
Amina Niase, Italy
Tanutobuomie Oruene, Belgium
Anahi Terrazas, France

**GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP**

Ammar Dharani, Neuroscience (B.S.)

**PAUL & DAISY SOROS FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS**

Oscar De los Santos, Political Science

**NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Brandon Chew, Life Sciences (Cell Biology)
Farhan Chowdhury, Chemistry (Chemical Synthesis)

**GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP**

Ammar Dharani, Neuroscience (B.S.)

**PAUL & DAISY SOROS FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS**

Oscar De los Santos, Political Science

**PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM (CSPC)**

Tommy Nguyen, History
Faculty & Staff Committees

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP
Jasmine Rae Bryant, Chemistry
Yalda Khashe, Industrial and Systems Engineering
Mitul Luhar, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP
Mitul Luhar, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering
Erica Lovano McCann, Academic Programs
Brian O’Connell, Design

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP
Nina Rathbun, Political Science & International Relations
Eric Roth, American Language Institute
Lin Shi, Fulbright Alumni Ambassador
Trisha Tucker, Thematic Option Honors Program
Anastasia Tzoyzoyrakos, American Language Institute
James Valentine, American Language Institute
Andrea Valenzuela, Residential Education
Carol Wise, Political Science & International Relations

Global
Susie Kim, Medical Education
Nina Rathbun, Political Science & International Relations
Doris Sung, Architecture
Carl Voigt, International Business Education

Discovery
Jasmine Rae Bryant, Chemistry
Wes Jones, Architecture
Mitul Luhar, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering
James McHugh, Religion
Sheila Sofian, Cinematic Arts

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP
Kambiz Akhavan, Dornsife Unruh Institute of Politics
Alexandra Graddy-Reed, Public Policy

SALUTATORIANS & Valedictorian & Distinction Prizes
Renaissance
David Ginsburg, Environmental Studies
Veronica Guo, Communication

Edward Finegan, Linguistics and Law
Akira Lippit, Cinematic Arts
Alice Cline Parker, Electrical Engineering