

Annual Report

Academic Honors and Fellowships





Renewed Energy and Purpose

The 2022-2023 academic year brought an increase of activity and engagement to Academic Honors and Fellowships (AHF). As a community, we rose from the pandemic with new stories and refocused aspirations. For example, there was a 40% increase in Undergraduate Writers' Conference participants, UK graduate study prestigious scholarship applicants, and those who graduated with a 4.0 overall GPA. In total, AHF students garnered nearly \$700,000 in external funding that will support graduate study, research, and language study beyond our campus.

Other Indicators of success this year include our first Truman Scholarship recipient since 2019 and USC being named a <u>Top Producing Institution for Fulbright U.S. Students</u> – the most of any California institution for 2022-2023. In such a complicated world, it is comforting to know that students remain ready to travel the globe to share their knowledge, experiences, and learn from others. We are very proud that the scholars featured on these pages and know that they will represent USC and their communities well in their future endeavors.

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.

We present this annual report in celebration of the year's honorees, the participants of our Signature Academic Events, the faculty who partnered with us in mentoring them, and the valuable advising pipeline USC AHF has established.

Fight on!

Andrew McConnell Stott Vice Provost, Academic Programs



Our Mission

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.

By the Numbers

Award	Nominees	Awardees	Success Rate	Award Estimate	Total
Astronaut	2	1	50%	\$15,000	\$15,000
Boren	8	6	75%	\$25,000	\$150,000
Fulbright	80	17	21%	\$20,000	\$340,000
Goldwater	4	2	50%	\$7,500	\$15,000
NSF GRFP (undergrad)	N/A	4	N/A	\$37,000	\$148,000
Truman	3	1	33%	\$30,000	\$30,000
TOTAL	97	31			\$698,000

Funding Review for the 2022-2023 grant year, AHF award portfolio

At the start of my Truman Scholarship application process, I was completely unfamiliar with and intimidated by this world of prestigious graduate fellowships. Frankly, I didn't think I had a chance of winning. The incredible staff at AHF offered vital support at every turn, from mock interviews with faculty to constructive criticism of my essays. They not only made the process far less stressful, but they also helped me learn new things about myself and my path toward public service through their thoughtful guidance.

Michael Solomon '23 Truman Scholarship Recipient 2023

Meet Our Team



Katie Capra Manager



Lisseth Murillo
Student Programs
Advisor II



Yuqiu Xu Graduate Assistant

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.

AAA applications continue to grow annually. This year, 830 undergraduates across a variety of disciplines were awarded more than \$3.6 million dollars in tuition credit to support their ambitious academic pursuits.

AFRICAN STUDENT FUND

The USC Africa Student Fund is a scholarship intended to support undergraduate student travel to African countries for study, research, service-based learning and internships. Students who have identified a project or program are invited to apply with this funding in mind. Winners may receive full or partial funding to help cover airfare costs associated with their proposed project or program.

LEONARD D. SCHAEFFER FELLOWS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The Schaeffer Fellows program exposes talented undergraduates to government work and its impact through high-level, full-time summer internships at the local, state, and federal levels.

In 2022, ten USC students joined a national cohort of 50 Fellows for internships in offices including the U.S. Department of Health and the California Department of Transportation. In addition to a \$5,500 stipend, Fellows attended the national Schaeffer Fellows Summit in Washington, D.C. The University honored their contributions to public service at a virtual fall recognition event.

Program alumni went on to earn prestigious honors including USC Salutatorian and Discovery Scholar Prize, as well as competitive post-graduate awards like the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.





Micro-Seminars

Fall 2022 marks the 17th year for the Micro-Seminars program, which aims to enhance interactions between our faculty and first-year undergraduates. In line with President Folt's vision for sustainability, we encouraged topics related to sustainability, especially USC's signature focus on the intersection of sustainability with topics of social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. AHF hosted 53 Micro-Seminars with faculty across 19 USC Schools and offices.



explore disciplines they didn't know about before. Quite a few students came to me at the end asking about how to get started in designing wearables. That's really rewarding.

2022 Micro-Seminar Faculty Presenter





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 8th Annual Research and Fellowships Week on October 31- November 4, 2022 offered both in person and virtual sessions. Highlights included International Student Funding, STEM Scholarships and Fellowships, and Chasing Dreams: How the Fisher Fellowship Puts First-Gen Students 'On the Map' in Exchange for Volunteer Service.







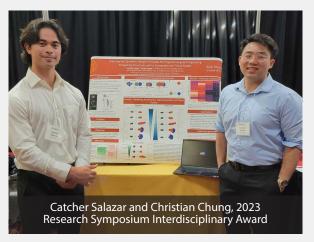


Scholar Distinction Alumni Panelists from left to right:

- Adam Karelin, Renaissance Scholar Prize Winner
- Leena Mathur, Global Scholar Prize Winner, Rennaissance and Discovery Distinction
- Serena Allen, Global Prize Winner, Discovery Distinction

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. This year we were able to host the event on April 12, 2023 with an awards ceremony on April 13, 2023. 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 89 undergraduate submissions with participation from 104 students. Works were evaluated by 43 faculty judges across nearly all USC Schools.





Undergraduate Writers' Conference

The Undergraduate Writers' Conference is a partnership between USC's Office of Academic Programs and The Writing Program. The purpose of the event is to share and celebrate writing from current undergraduate students across all fields of study and offer a space to receive feedback from peers and faculty.

In its 20th year, the Conference featured a new element with faculty-led juried workshops along with a heartfelt keynote address by author María Amparo Escandón. Of the 278 pieces submitted, 85% were authored by students participating in the Undergraduate Writers' Conference for the first time.





Commencement Honors

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIANS



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 180 graduating students who had earned a cumulative USC grade point average (GPA) of 3.980 or higher were invited to apply.

The 2023 USC Valedictorian and Salutatorians are (from left to right):

- Isha Sanghvi, Neuroscience (B.S.) | Valedictorian
- Liam Tsao, History (B.A.) & Social Sciences (Economics) (B.A.) Salutatorian
- Carina Robles, Political Science (B.A.) | Salutatorian

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.

- Karen Abe
- Amy Anchi Li Chen
- Sami Chmait
- Haoran Chu
- Kathryn Ehrbar
- Wei Long Fam
- Guadalupe Gutierrez
- Ashley Heravi
- Rachel Kim
- John Klopotowski
- Karina Kramer
- Suet Yann Melanie Kwan
- Yichen Liu
- Jing Lou
- Christopher Mansourian
- Mariam Manukyan
- Jonathan Mei
- Alexander Prieger
- Bita Tanavoli
- **Bo Wang**
- Jinghao Wang
- Mengzhe Wang
- Lydia Whitman
- Jacob Wisnik
- Yan Zhang

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.

- Natalie Abreu
- John Atwood
- Allison Baek
- Anupam Batra
- **Daniel Bomier**
- William Kristian Vu Bostic
- Rachel Cassar
- **Lorand Cheng**
- Kyra Eunice Chua
- **Emily Chung**
- Erin Chuna
- Colin Coane
- Ammar Dharani
- Brvnne Di Donato
- Alexis Dugel
- Mylah Eaton
- Katelin Ellig
- Nicole Falk
- **Emily Farshi** Charles Feuerborn
- Brendan Glascock
- Cameron Glynn
- Luke Greenwood
- Yaning Han
- **Hunter Hinson**

- Vishaal Jagannadhan
- Andrew Wu Jiang
- Corey Michael Karp
- Jaiveer Khanna
- Leyla Khosrowshahi
- Hilary J Kim
- Reshma Kopparapu
- Cailyn Audrey Lee
- Kevin Z Lu
- Daniel Luo
- Molly Mancina
- **Enrique Martinez**
- Mark McDermott
- Celine Maia Mendiola
- Elizabeth Mensah
- Anusha Mubin
- Joseph Naseib
- Sarah Ann Panek
- Yilin Qi
- Crystal Qin
- Rohan Sanjay
- Krishni Satchi
- **Anthony Sauer** Anna Schusser
- Serena Stephens

- **Grace Szafara**
- Lauren Tsai
- Melissa Tungare
- **Angus Turnor**
- Milena van der Reis
- Caroline Vassar
- Katherine Vlamis
- Zixin Xu
- William Yang
- Colin Yeo
- Tingyu Zheng
- Yangqin Zhou

USC SCHOLAR DISTINCTIONS

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 2022-2023 cycle, USC recognized 293 Renaissance Scholars, and 10 have been selected as prize recipients.

- Meredith Byrnes, East Asian Languages and Cultures (B.A.); Photography & Urban and Sustainable Planning minor
- Baoqi Chen, Journalism (B.A.) & Environmental Studies (B.S.); GIS and Sustainability Science minor
- Mateo Croom, Art (B.A.) & Mathematics (B.A.)
- Madison Hubbard, Philosophy, Politics and Law (B.A.) & Political Science (B.A.) & French (B.A.)
- Lingaire A Ofosuhene, International Relations (B.A.) & Narrative Studies (B.A.); Thematic
 Approaches to Humanities and Society minor
- Gillian Elaine, Sawyer Archaeology (B.A.) & Linguistics (B.A.)
- Urban Seiberg, Linguistics/Cognitive Science (B.A.); Photography & Speech-Language and Hearing Professions minor
- Jiatong Shao, Business Administration (B.S.) & International Relations and the Global Economy (B.A.) & Visual and Performing Arts Studies (B.A.)
- Rachel Tan, Psychology (B.A.) & Choral Music (B.A.)
- Alfredo Torres, Psychology (B.A.) & French (B.A.); Philosophy of Law, Politics and Economics 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 2022-2023 cycle, USC recognized 25 Global Scholars, and 6 projects have been selected as prize recipients.

- Esmeralda Aceituno, Architecture (B.Arch.); Communication Design & Cinematic Arts minor
- Annabelle Asali, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Jose Botello-Herrera, Architecture (B.Arch.) & Archaeology (B.A.)
- Maria Del Mar Rocio Gomez, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Zhijie Jin, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Ian Leung, Architecture (B.Arch.); Real Estate Finance minor
- Kelly Sadikun, Political Science (B.A.) & East Asian Languages and Cultures (B.A.)
- Benjamin Vogel, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies (B.S.); Natural Science minor
- Ryan Matthew von Keyserling, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Thomas Wang, Architecture (B.Arch.)
- Beryl Zhou, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies (B.S.); Natural Science minor



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 2022-2023 cycle, USC recognized 104 Discovery Scholars, and 10 have been selected as prize recipients.

- Lily Bai, Human Biology (BS); Health Care Studies minor
- William Kristian Vu Bostic, Biomedical Engineering (Electrical Engineering) (BS) & East Asian Languages and Cultures (BA)
- Nayeli Camacho, Public Policy (BS)
- Ammar Dharani, Neuroscience (BS); History & Science, Health and Aging minor
- Ashley Fulton, Music Production (BM)
- Jung Hwan Heo, Computer Engineering & Computer Science CECS (BS)
- Hunter Hinson, Communication (BA) & Political Science (BA)
- Samantha Shanne, Architecture (BARCH)
- Atharva Tewari, Global Studies (BA) & Journalism (BA)
- Helen Wu, Neuroscience (BS); Computer Science minor

Fulbright U.S. Student Program



Academic Honors and Fellowships has developed an extensive advising and evaluation process for applicants of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. As a result, USC has been named one of the country's top producers of U.S. Fulbright students, with 22 Trojans receiving the prestigious grant during the 2022-23 award cycle.

Every so often we have the honor of facilitating application journeys that come full circle and the applicant becomes the mentor. Highlighted below are two Trojans who applied for Fulbright through USC nearly a decade apart, and crossed paths through AHF with a common goal to serve as teachers in Mexico.



The Student Perspective: "Talking through each step of the application process with professors and fellowship mentors made the entire process a lot more manageable. For example, when a professor from USC's writing department gave me feedback on my first draft of written pieces, I was able to get a clear direction on the edits that would make specific anecdotes stronger in my application; particularly, aspects of my story and experiences that align with the Fulbright mission. Moreover, my interview with the committee prepared me well for the panel layout during my actual interview in March. It also served as a final overview of my materials before submitting my application. I felt so much more relaxed and confident throughout the lengthy and long standing process. As I prepare to embark on my Fulbright journey, I continue to feel the AHF office support!"

Rianna Rios, 2023 Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship, Mexico

The Campus Committee Perspective: "Serving on the review committee as a USC and Fulbright ETA Alum, is such a rewarding experience. Every time I review students' applications and learn about their accomplishments and future goals with Fulbright, I reminisce on my grant application journey and the excitement (and nerves) that I felt, at the possibility of me receiving a Fulbright ETA grant to Mexico. I truly value the opportunity to support and mentor such talented students, through their application process. It especially excites me and makes for a full circle story when a student I helped support, receives the Fulbright ETA grant to Mexico!!"

Andrea Valenzuela, 2015 Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship, Mexico USC Residential Education & Fulbright Campus Committee Member



In Their Words

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



Ammar Dharani Goldwater, Fulbright, and Discovery Scholar

While I initially found the Goldwater application intimidating and thus difficult to begin, the AHF staff members guided me through the entire application process and equipped me with the tools to transform my scientific research into a competitive application. By applying to these fellowships, I not only learned how to translate complex scientific findings to a broader audience but also refined my passions and future career path. This experience has also connected me to a community of other passionate scholars who are driven by scientific exploration and societal change. I am motivated to give back to this community by mentoring aspiring USC students to pursue their passions and become competitive applicants for fellowships.

Joe Jocas Boren and Fulbright Scholar

As someone with several—often competing—interests, I was eager to apply to multiple fellowships. The guidance offered by AHF encouraged me to focus on my passions and think critically about how I want to spend my time both during and beyond my undergraduate career at USC. Through individual workshop sessions, I was able to craft a more cohesive personal narrative and subsequently reflect on what was important to me. This led me to revisit my passion for teaching and solidified my interest in Eastern Europe and diplomacy, which allowed me to decide on the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Anykščiai, Lithuania with confidence.



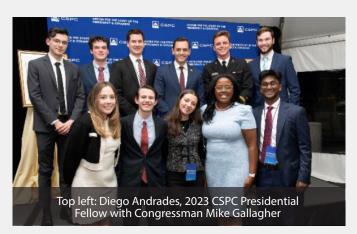


Carina Robles

Fulbright English Teach Assistantship (2023-2024)

Collaborating with the AHF office has been a highlight of my experience at USC. AHF staff, faculty, students, and alumni all contribute to a supportive environment for applicants to pursue various opportunities. In applying for a Fulbright English Teach Assistantship to Taiwan, AHF provided practical application assistance such as workshops, one-on-one advising, and a campus committee evaluation, all with the aim of helping my application reach its fullest potential. AHF showed me the door and equipped me with the tools to open it. In working with AHF, I have a newly found application confidence, a trait I will take with me for years to come. I am so happy I joined the AHF community, and I encourage all USC students to utilize this valuable resource.

Fellowship Recipients





ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP

Amanda Tse, Pharmacology & Drug Development and Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Studies

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP

Carlotta Dalal Alaai, Jordan (Arabic) Sasha Benke, Tajikistan (Persian) Joseph Jocas, Kazakhstan (Russian) Sangeeta Kishore, Tanzania (Swahili) Lingaire Ofosuhene, Ghana(Twi)

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

Sasha Benke, Uzbekistan (ETA)
Ammar Dharani, Germany (Research)
Patricia Garcia, Britain (Graduate Study)
Eduardo Gonzalez, Mexico (Research)
Hunter Hinson, Spain (ETA)
Joe Jocas, Lithuania (ETA)
Weronika Malek-Lubawski, Poland (Research)
Sibelle O'Donnell, Brazil (Research)
Jenna Ogawa, South Korea (ETA)
Rianna Rios, Mexico (ETA)
Carina Robles, Taiwan (ETA)
Amelie Schlager, Taiwan (ETA)
Matthew Slade, Taiwan (ETA)
Isabel Torres, Spain (ETA)
Isabella Welsh, Spain (ETA)
Trinity Yang, Taiwan (ETA)

NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Lorand Cheng, Electrical and Computer Engineering Alan Goldfarb, Chemistry (Mathematics) Jocelyn Liu, Electrical and Computer Engineering (Particle Physics) Hari Sridhara, Chemical Engineering (Sustainable energy)

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Jordan Cahoon, Computer Science Allen Chang, Computer Science and Applied and Computational Mathematics

PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM (CSPC)

Diego Andrades, Philosophy, Politics and Law and Political Science





TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Solomon, History and International Relations



"In the big picture of things, an undergraduate education is swift. And during that short time, students are exposed to broad ideas and deep experiences. They enter with fresh minds and ambition to find unique ways of adding value to scholarship and redefining citizenship. When reviewing their amazing work, I have no fear that they are on the right track to making this world a better place. And, I'm excited to see it happen."

Faculty & Staff Committees

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP

Rebecca Broyer, Chemistry Yalda Khashe, Industrial and Systems Engineering

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP

Megan Becker, Political Science & International Relations Iva Bozovic, Political Science & International Relations

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

Study/Research

Jose-Luis Ambite, Computer Science + Information Sciences Institute Megan Becker, Political Science and International Relations Douglas Becker, Political Science and International Relations and **Environmental Studies** Iva Bozovic, Political Science and International Relations Vicki Callahan, Cinema and Media Studies; Media Arts + Practice Sandra Disner, Linguistics Laura Ferguson, Population and Public Health Sciences Diane Ghirardo, Architecture David Ginsburg, **Environmental Studies** Beatriz Ilari, Music Teaching and Learning Roksana Karim, Population and Public Health Sciences Carly Kenkel, Biological Sciences Colleen Keough, Communication Susan Luczak, Psychology Natania Meeker, French and Italian Erin Moore, Anthropology Brian O'Connell, Design Antonio Ortega, Electrical and Computer Engineering Andrea Parra, Latin American and Iberian Cultures Nina Rathbun, Political Science and International

Relations

Darren Ruddell, Spatial Sciences Institute Meg Russett, English Alisa Sanchez, The Writing Scott Spencer, Musicology Shawn Sullivan, Law Tok Thompson, Anthropology Julie Van Dam, French Lisa Vest, Musicology Heather Wipfli, Health Promotion; International Relations Mellissa Withers, Population and Public Health Sciences Alexis Zoto, Design

English Teaching Assistantship

Justin Bibler, The Writing Program Tamara Black, The Writing **Program** Ryan Boyd, The Writing Program Jenifer Crawford, MAT-**TESOL** Daniel Dissinger, The Writing Program Elizabeth Durst, The Writing Program Antonio Elefano, The Writing Program Roberto Gomez, Communications and Public Relations Mandy Hobmeier, The Writing Program Karin Huebner, History Taiyaba Husain, The Writing Program Richard Jones, American Language Institute Nathalie Joseph, The Writing Program Leah Kemp, Latin American Languages and Cultures Ryan Leack, The Writing Program Tracy Levin, American Language Institute Julie Loppacher, Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity Erica Lovano McCann, **Undergraduate Education** Olivia Martinez, American Language Institute Emmy Min, MAT-TESOL Mary Ann Murphy, American Language

Kate O'Connor, Rossier **Professional Development** Vanessa Osborne, The Writing Program Eric Roth, American Language Institute Lin Shi, Business Administration Kimberley Sumner, American Language Institute Patricia Taylor, The Writing Program Anastassia Tzoytzoyrakos, American Language Institute Jim Valentine, American Language Institute Andrea Valenzuela, Residential Education

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Mitul Luhar, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering Jessica Parr, Chemistry

RHODES, MARSHALL & MITCHELL

SCHOLARSHIPS

Alice Baumgartner, History Douglas Becker, Political Science and International Relations and Environmental Studies Tamara Black, The Writing Program Nick Cull, Communication Laura Ferguson, Population and Public Health Sciences Nina Rathbun, Political Science & International Relations Josh West, Earth Sciences, Environmental Studies

USC SCHOLAR DISTINCTION PRIZES

Renaissance

Adam Gilbert, Early Music David Ginsburg, Environmental Studies Veronica Guo, Business Communication Karin Huebner, History Colleen Keough, Communication Yalda Khashe, Industrial and Systems Engineering Victoria Petryshyn, **Environmental Studies** Barry Schein, Linguistics Tok Thompson, Anthropology Stephen Pierce, Keyboard Studies Carol Wise, Political Science and International Relations Heather Wipfli, Health Promotion; International Relations Mellissa Withers, Population and Public Health Sciences Alexis Zoto, Design

Global

Yo-Ichiro Hakomori, Architecture Susie Kim, Medical Education Brian O'Connell, Design Nina Rathbun, Political Science & International Relations

Discovery

Douglas Becker, Political Science and International Relations and Environmental Studies Thomas Bertolini, Chemistry Lisa Leeman, Cinema Megan McCain, Biomedical Engineering Doris Sung, Architecture

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Kambiz Akhavan, Dornsife Unruh Institute of Politics Alexandra Graddy-Reed, Public Policy Taiyaba Husain, The Writing Program

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIANS

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

