



Spring Newsletter 2020

Upperclassmen Advice

“Put yourself out there, and don't be afraid to try new things, especially as you move beyond your early years in college. Come junior or senior year, it can be easy to slip into this feeling that it's too late -- it's not!! Some of my best experiences at Iowa were the things I chose to pick up late in my time there.” – Allison Rowe

“Allow yourself to not be perfect.” –Emeleeta Paintsil

“Don't settle, even if you found an amazing major and love all your classes, keep trying new things. It is amazing how many opportunities are available to you, so make the most of it!” –Barbara Badovinac

“Try all sorts of new activities and groups! I ended up falling in love with and making my strongest connections in groups I never thought I would join going in to college. Be open to new experiences, but also don't be afraid to step back if something turns out to not be for you.” – Sarah Graham

“This might be cliché, but believe in yourself and in what you are trying to achieve. Also, remember that it is never too late to try something new.” – Riley Lewers

Building Lasting Community



PSP Program Leadership

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Art Spisak
Staff Advisor: Camille Socarras

Executive Board

President: Michael Li
Vice President: Barbara Badovinac
Secretary/Treasurer: Samalya Thenuwara

Committee Chairs

Alumni: Allison Rowe
Outreach: Carly Heying
Events: Anthony DeSalvo
Head TA: Caroline Meek

Class Representatives

Senior: Nicole Nucaro
Junior: Caroline Meek
Sophomore: Kirsten Lucy
Freshman: Rachel Rhoads

Congratulations PSP Graduates!

Barbara Badovinac (Microbiology; pre-medicine)

Minor: American Sign Language

Sarah Graham (Computer science and Engineering)

Minor: French

Riley Lewers (B.S. in Economics and Math)

Minor: Political Science

Julia Poska (Journalism and Geography)

Ian Klopfenstein (Geography, Environmental Policy and Planning, and Music)

Minor: Native American and Indigenous Studies

Clarissa Dietz (Physics)

Minor: Geography
Certificate: Sustainability

Ethan Eiler (Finance)

David Wu (Electrical Engineering)

Bryce Shonka (Biology)

Minor: Spanish

Allison Rowe (Mechanical Engineering)

Minor: English

Marissa Roseman (Environmental Science and Biology)

Michael Li (Biology)

Certificate: Global Health Studies

Emeleeta Paintsil (B.S. in Biochemistry)

Certificate: Leadership Studies

Nicole Nucaro (Ethics and Public Policy and Interdepartmental Studies)

Certificate: Resilience and Trauma-Informed Perspectives

Sawyer Goetz (Biomedical Engineering)

Certificate: Clinical and Translational Service

Ashley Lapointe (Theater Arts)

Phoebe Snydersmith (Psychology)

Minor: English

Jiahua Zhang (Computer Science)

Where are they going?

Michael Li: Serving in the Peace Corps and then pursuing a master's in international development

Sarah Graham: Moving to Des Moines, IA to start a job as a Software Engineer for Principal Financial Group.

Barbara Badovinac: Attending Carver College of Medicine in the Fall

Riley Lewers: Joining the Economics Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago as a Research Assistant; Eventually plans to pursue a PhD in Economics.

Julia Poska: Staying in Iowa City to work as the Communications and Events Coordinator for the local non-profit Field to Family, advocating for a more secure and sustainable local food system

Allison Rowe: Working as a Mechanical Engineer for Design Engineers, a building systems design consulting firm, in Madison, WI

Emeleeta Paintsil: Attending the Medical College of Wisconsin to pursue a Ph.D. in their Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Biomedical Sciences (IDP)

Marissa Roseman: PhD program at the Ohio State University's School of Environment and Natural Resources, studying timber rattlesnake conservation genetics

Ian Klopfenstein: Attending the University of Michigan Law School/Taubman College of Urban and Regional Planning as part of JD/MURP dual-degree program

Nicole Nucaro: Attending law school in the fall

Alumni Spotlight

Anne Steele Koho, Class of 1984

Major: Accounting

Current professional role

After a rewarding corporate career that spanned more than 30 years in banking, consulting and IT project management, I founded Trifecta Arts Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing arts educational opportunities for underprivileged youth around the world.

During its first three years, Trifecta Arts has sponsored ballet, instrumental music, and art programs for impoverished youth in Ecuador and India. More than 700 students have participated in these programs taught by myself and local arts instructors, encompassing over 14,000 student instruction hours.



What was being a Presidential Scholar like during your time at Iowa?

As a member of the second incoming class of Presidential Scholars, when only 10 were awarded each year, the only structured event I recall was the luncheon at the University President's residence. I was really happy that my parents had taught me lovely table manners, including what the abundance of silverware was for!

If you could come back for an afternoon and do one thing in Iowa City, what would it be?

Walk around the campus and visit the locations of so many great memories – North and Halsey Halls where the Dance Department is located, Kinnick Stadium where I played piccolo at every home game as a 4-year member of the Hawkeye Marching Band, my sorority house on E. Washington, my old apartment on E. Jefferson, the banks of the Iowa River, (the new) Hancher Auditorium, the downtown area of shops and bars, The Old Capital...So, maybe that's not ONE thing, but how can you choose just one?

What advice would you like to share with Presidential Scholars in their first year or two here?

My advice to all young college students is to relieve yourself from the pressure of having to know or decide what you'll be doing for the rest of your life. Enjoy your time by participating in activities you love or would love to try, prepare for your future by doing your very best in every class you take and don't wreck your GPA, and help others by sharing what you have or what you know. Growth occurs when you are outside of your comfort zone, so get out there!

From the Archives

MICHAEL STATHAKIS, Journalism
 PEGGY STEARNS, Pharmacy
 ANNE-RENE STEELE, Accounting
 PAULA STEELE, Communications
 WAYNE STEEN, General Studies



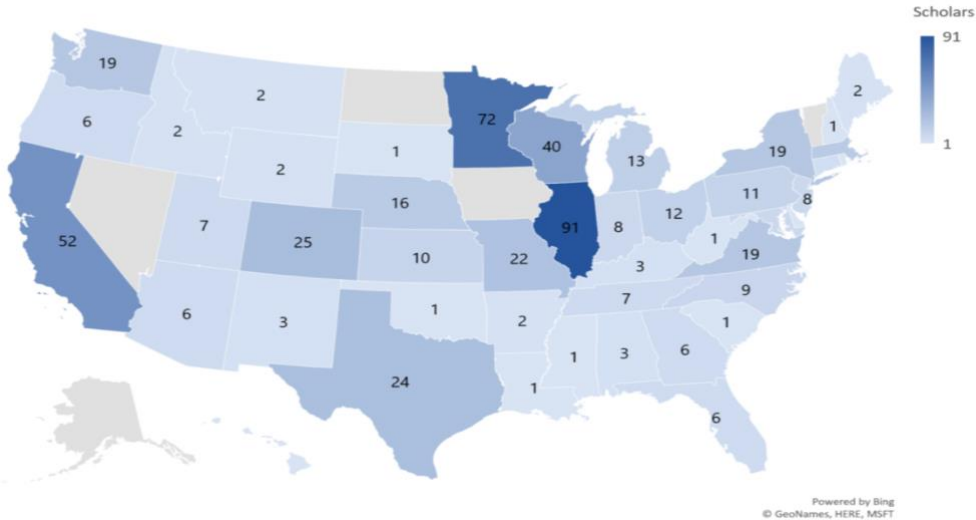
Answer this semester's 1-minute alumni survey question! *Who was the faculty member who made the biggest impact on you? In a few words, why?*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aXUZVZUYFc0AqhV0X1aa8XZxwzNmm6x-PxBdKOy8jQ8/edit>

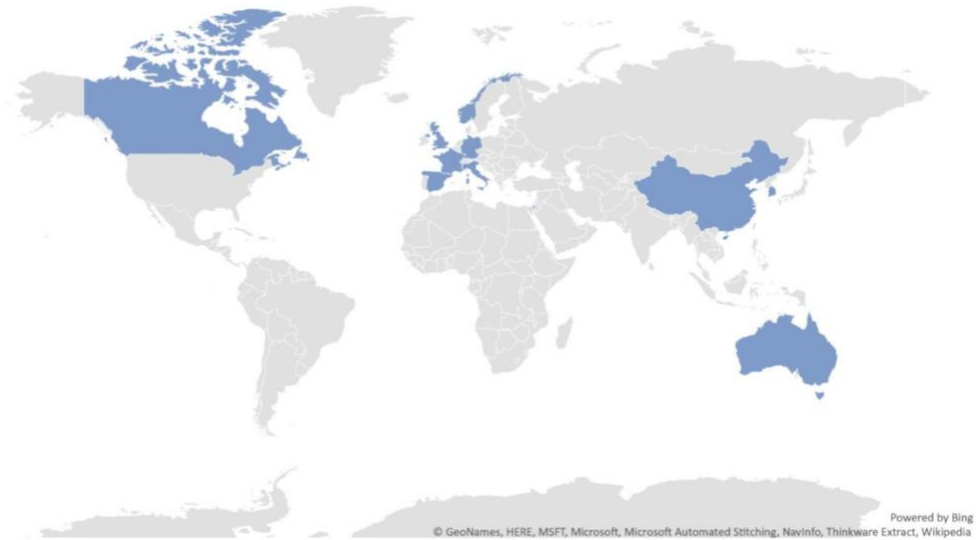
We look forward to keeping in contact! Be sure your contact information is up-to-date with the UI Center for Advancement. Click here to update your information:

<https://www.foriowa.org/update-information/>

Presidential Scholars outside of Iowa



Presidential Scholars Abroad



Data reflects most recent contact information for Presidential Scholar alumni held by the UI Center for Advancement.

Thanks to the many alumni who answered last semester's one-minute survey, sharing their favorite study spots on campus! Here are some of the answers:

1. The small rooms on the 3rd floor of the Seaman's Center
2. IMU Ballroom (during finals week with friends)
3. 3rd floor of the BHC
4. Law Library
5. Kitchen table in my apartment



The Presidential Scholars Program would like to extend a huge thank you to Jennifer Blair for all her work for the PSP executive committee.

As an undergraduate at Iowa, Jennifer was a Presidential Scholar and worked as an Honors Proctor and Summer Honors Ambassador.

She earned a BA in History from the University of Iowa and an M.Phil in International Peace Studies from Trinity College Dublin. She then gained admission to the Law Society of Ireland and practiced private client law in Dublin until her return to Iowa.

More recently, Jennifer served as the Associate Director for Advising Services at the Tippie College of Business, and she was the recipient of the 2020 Honors Advising Award.

Jennifer is moving to Ohio, and we wish her all the best!