

President's Awards

Kathryn Arcy, College of Health Professions

Kathryn is a senior Communication Sciences and Disorders major who is working with faculty member Katie Strong to research aphasia, which is the loss of the ability to understand or express speech. She assisted Dr. Strong in transcribing qualitative interviews with persons with aphasia related to co-construction of personal narratives, identity, and well-being. Subsequently, Kathryn was the lead author on an independent research project on the disorder that resulted in two poster presentations at the state and national level. Currently, Kathryn and her lab partners are working towards submitting their research to a peer-reviewed journal, and she is also leading a team on a new aphasia research project. Her next step will be continuing her passion for research into communication disorders at the graduate level.

Steven Bailey Jr., College of the Arts and Media

Steven is a senior in the Department of Art and Design who will receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Spring of 2019 with a concentration in printmaking and sculpture. In his academic career, he has pushed the boundaries of sculpture, drawing and printmaking by combining them in unexpected ways, according to faculty member Jeremy Davis. "Steven is an innovative thinker in regards to materials and methods," says Davis. "Steven spent a full semester in Florence, Italy last year and came back with a maturity and focus I rarely see in an undergraduate student." Steven has exhibited work in several places, including the annual juried student exhibition at CMU; Art Walk Central; Pop Up Exhibition (2016, 2017, 2018); and Where Have All the Flowers Gone? (2017).

Alicyn Stothard, College of Science and Engineering

Alicyn is a senior Biochemistry major who has worked in the lab of Chemistry professor Ben Swarts since 2016. In that time, she has been a co-author on three published research papers, along with a submitted paper and another that will be submitted in the near future. Her research centers on a class of sugar molecules called trehalose analogues, compounds that have promising applications related to the treatment of human metabolic diseases like diabetes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. In addition, her research data was included in a provisional patent application filed in 2018. Along with her research at CMU, Alicyn is involved in collaborative research with Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Alicyn plans to continue her research in a Ph.D. program in 2020.

Provost's Awards

Alexandra Couch, College of Science and Engineering

Alexandra is a senior Biomedical Sciences major who has worked alongside CMU biology faculty member Jennifer Schisa to research the *cgh-1* gene. Specifically, she explored the effects of the *cgh-1* gene on eggs using the nematode genetic model, *C. elegans*. Her work quantified the levels of PAB-1 protein when *cgh-1* expression is knocked-down, and demonstrated a statistically significant increase in protein levels in eggs and immature germ cells. Alexandra's research resulted in co-authorship on an article recently published in *Genesis*, a journal devoted to genetics, and she presented her research at a 2018 conference at Eastern Michigan University. After graduation, Alexandra plans to study optometry, and she's already been accepted at two top programs in the Midwest.

Annika Cushnyr, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Annika is a senior with a double major in French and Political Science. For her senior thesis, she combined both interests in her senior thesis entitled "Representations of Quebec society and the impact of Michelle Le Normand's *Couleur du temps*," which was written entirely in French. Annika examined an important but under-studied female writer from the pre-World War II era, focusing on her struggles as a pioneering career woman struggling against society's expectations that she fulfill the traditional roles of wife and mother. During her time at CMU, Annika spent semesters in Sweden and in France, and she plans to attend law school after graduation.

Parker Fritz, College of the Arts and Media

Parker is a senior majoring in Saxophone Performance and Music Composition who has received numerous accolades during his time at CMU. During 2018-19, he was the Presser Scholar, which is the School of Music's largest scholarship. As a saxophonist, Parker has earned honors in eight state, regional, and national performance competitions, including quarterfinalist performances at the Fischhoff National Competition in 2017 and 2018, the nation's largest chamber music competition. CMU saxophone professor John Nichol says Parker "has been one of the most outstanding students I have had the good fortune to work with," while composition professor Evan Ware says, "In my nearly fifteen years of teaching, Parker is the most outstanding student with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work with."

Emily Hieftje, College of Health Professions

Emily is a senior majoring in Exercise Science who has proven herself both in the lab and in the classroom. Her undergraduate research project, entitled *Impact of thermo-neutral and hot yoga exercise training on vascular function and glucose metabolism*, was aided by a CMU Summer Scholar grant in 2018. "She has been absolutely instrumental in the success of this research project through her dedication to study participants, mastery of laboratory skills, and most recently mentoring new student researchers," says CMU exercise professor Rachael Nelson. She completed this significant research project while still maintaining excellent grades and involvement in extracurricular activities like the CMU Triathlon Club. This summer, Emily will begin a prestigious internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Provost's Awards

(continued)

Emily Jensen, College of Education and Human Services

Emily is a senior Child Development major (and family studies minor) who has done significant research into children with autism spectrum disorder. For her Honors Program Capstone Project, Emily used a multi-method research design to explore how Certified Child Life Specialists worked with autism spectrum disorder children in the medical setting. This important and ambitious body of research will be presented at the biennial meeting of the premier organization in the field of child development, the Society for Research in Child Development. In addition, this research will be prepared for publication in a leading professional journal.

Hunter Sagaskie, College of Science and Engineering

Hunter is a senior Biology major who authored the research paper "The Impact of Colonization: Are American Indian/Alaskan Native Adults at Greater Risk for Food Insecurity than White Adults?" He found that American Indian/Alaskan Native adults were three times more likely to report food insecurity, and his paper explored how the legacy of colonization negatively affects food access for these populations. In March, Hunter presented his paper at the North Central Sociological Association's annual meeting. He is President of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society; Vice President of the North American Indigenous Student Organization; and serves on the CMU Pow Wow organizing committee. After graduation, Hunter plans to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology.

Claire Thelen, College of Business Administration

Senior Accounting major Claire Thelen produced valuable research in CMU's School of Accounting, seeking to understand why some students have an inaccurate impression of a career in accounting. She examined the professional and academic literature to ascertain career attributes that are important to the current generations of students, then developed a survey to measure perceptions about careers in accounting. "Results will be helpful to the School," notes Accounting Chairperson Lori Olsen. "As we gain perspective about students' aspirations and perceptions, we will be better able to focus our education and advising efforts to address student concerns."

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The National Scholarship Program (NSP) is charged with promoting national scholarship/fellowship programs at CMU and increasing the quality of applicants to these programs. These prestigious programs include: Fulbright, Goldwater, Marshall, Rhodes, Truman, and more. The application process is competitive and being named a CMU nominee to compete for one of these prestigious awards is a significant honor. Depending on the award for which they are competing, nominees are chosen based on factors including academic merit, leadership potential, and ambassadorial potential. The accomplishments of the NSP nominees reflect positively on the academic excellence of CMU students, to both internal and external audiences.

Fulbright U.S. Student Grants

In 1945, Senator J. William Fulbright introduced a bill in the United States Congress that called for the use of surplus war property to fund the promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The program currently awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study, and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Isabella Barricklow, CMU Honors student. Major: English Literatures, Language and Writing
SEMI-FINALIST – Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant in Columbia

Josh Briscoe, CMU Honors Student. Majors: International Relations and Cultural and Global Studies
GRANT RECIPIENT – Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant in South Korea

Ian Callison, CMU Master's student: Political Science
*SEMI-FINALIST – Fulbright Research Grant in Nepal

Catherine Connors, CMU Honors Student. Majors: English and History for Secondary Education
*FINALIST ALTERNATE – Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant in Indonesia

Francesca Ferrara, CMU Honors Student. Majors: Philosophy and Accounting
NOMINEE – Fulbright Study Grant in the Netherlands

Dan Harazin, CMU Honors Student. Majors: Spanish for Business and Sports Management.
NOMINEE – Fulbright Binational Internship Grant in Mexico

Audrey Hartson, CMU Honors Student. Majors: Music and Child Development
*SEMI-FINALIST – Fulbright Study Grant in Ireland

Grace Pawluszka, CMU Honors Student. Major: Music Education
GRANT RECIPIENT – Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant in the Slovak Republic

Rachel Stelman, CMU Honors Student. Major: Mathematics for Elementary Education
*SEMI-FINALIST – Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant in Italy

*Denotes that finalist selections were not completed by scholarship selection committees at the time of this printing

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Truman Scholarship

Created by Congress in 1975, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation's purpose is to recognize college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in public service. The scholarship provides students with financial support, leadership training, and access to a network of like-minded individuals committed to the greater good.

Anna Dean, CMU Honors student and Leader Advancement Scholar. Majors: Political Science and History
NOMINEE – 2019 Truman Scholarship.

Boren Fellowship

An initiative of the National Security Education Program, Boren Fellowships provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. graduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Boren Fellows represent a vital pool of highly motivated individuals who wish to work in the federal national security arena. In exchange for funding, Boren Fellows commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.

Anjam Chaudhary, CMU Doctoral student: Educational Leadership
*NOMINEE – Boren Fellowship for Arabic language study in South Africa.

Emily Dimet, CMU Master's student: International Administration
*NOMINEE – Boren Fellowship for intensive Hindi language study in India.

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ROBERT NEWBY FUND AWARD WINNERS

Kaci Clayton

Following graduation in May, Kaci plans to gain experience in her field as an LLBSW (Limited License Bachelor of Social Work). Kaci will begin applying for graduate school in the fall, and she hopes to attend the University of Michigan School of Social Work to complete her Master of Social Work, specializing in either community and social systems, management of human services, or social policy and evaluation. The two social justice issues Kaci is most passionate about will guide her career path: forced displacement and mass incarceration.

Kaci is incredibly passionate about social justice, diversity, and inclusion both in her field of practice and as a CMU student. She believes that diversity and inclusivity should not only be a component of campus involvements and research, but that these values should serve as a foundation and lense for student initiatives. Using an intersectional approach to research and other academic endeavors should always be the top priority, as doing so is the only way to ensure that all diverse voices and stories are heard.

ROBERT NEWBY FUND AWARD WINNERS

Sarah Clinkscales

Sarah Clinkscales is a senior at Central Michigan University, studying to obtain her Bachelors degree. Her major is journalism and minor is anthropology. She graduates in December, 2019. She's an aspiring journalist and hopes to continue her research after school. Sarah is passionate about creating a more inclusive and diverse environment at institutions such as Central Michigan University. She believes the best way to promote diversity is by creating a platform for all people's voices to be heard, and that this can be achieved through research. Her ethnography "The Impact of Black Greek Organizations" looks at the challenges of students at predominantly white institutions, and the benefits they receive through the Black Greek community. She hopes that her research will encourage more universities to create inclusive environments for students. Through her career she hopes to meet many more people from diverse backgrounds.

Emily Jensen

Emily Jensen will be graduating in May with a degree in Child Development and a minor in Family Studies. Emily has a passion for working with children from diverse backgrounds to ensure equal treatment and opportunity for all. During her time at CMU she completed two study abroad experiences. One working with children in two orphanages in Oaxaca Mexico and the other working in a children's hospital in South Africa. Emily is currently applying for child life practicum experiences in order to meet the requirements to become a Certified Child Life Specialist. Her project with Dr. Cheryl Geisthardt "Working with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Medical Setting: Insights from Certified Child Life Specialists" combines her interests in child life and working with children with autism.

Montisa Watkins

Montisa Anntoinette Watkins is a native of Detroit, Michigan where she spent her formative years in the Detroit Public Schools and is a 1985 graduate from Regina High School. She is a first-generation college student graduating in 1991 from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Montisa spent the next six years working with high school students and families in Detroit as the minority admissions representative at her alma mater. She went on to Michigan State University earning a master's degree in 1999 in Student Affairs Administration. It is here as a graduate advisor and residence hall director where she realized the importance of positive peer group relationships for Black women in college.

Montisa served as the director of the Central Michigan University Upward Bound Program, a federal TRIO program which provides pre-college access and support services. For 14 years, she partnered with and for Detroit Public School students and families to promote the collegiate success of first-generation students. As a CMU King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Future Faculty Fellow and doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership program, Montisa is passionate about making space to consider and dialogue about the impact of spirituality, religion, and faith on college student success in secular and faith-based university campuses. She continues to build a research agenda around the intersecting issues of Black women related to race, class, education, sexual orientation, and their impact on other aspects of college life—whenever and wherever they enter (Giddings, 1984). Montisa remains committed to improving the collegiate experiences of students using an inclusive agenda where the "personal is political"—a phrase made popular from Hanish (1970) and now elevated by many Black feminist scholars such as Angela Davis, bell hooks, and Patricia Hill Collins. Her research hopes to serve CMU by expanding diversity matters to include an increased awareness of how spiritual, religious, and/or secular identities impact the college experience.

Future plans may include seminary, consulting, professional speaking, publishing, faculty service, and studying abroad. She is currently a research technician for the Center for Social Work Research at Wayne State University's School of Social Work. Montisa is the mother of one 19 year old son, Roschard Isaiah Watkins. She is an avid reader of Black women's history, working out, learning to run marathons, and resides in Rochester Hills, Michigan.