

2022-23

NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM





About the NSP



The National Scholars Program is Clemson University's most prestigious and selective undergraduate scholarship. Scholars are selected based on their ability to demonstrate academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, a wide range of interests and experiences, leadership ability, and the potential to make an impact on their local and global communities.

Scholars receive a cost-of-attendance award; have access to dedicated academic, personal, and professional development opportunities; and join a community of learners who are focused on making a difference. Scholars engage in cross-cohort mentoring and community-building activities and are connected to program alumni throughout their time at Clemson, creating a cycle of learning and an ongoing Scholar community that lasts long beyond their four years at Clemson.



MESSAGE FROM NSP LEADERSHIP



A YEAR OF TRANSITIONS

Every year, we welcome a new group of National Scholars who are different in myriad ways – their majors, their interests and hobbies, their perspectives – but united in their intellectual curiosity and leadership.

This year, we graduated the 2019 scholar cohort, who are celebrated in the following pages.

In a year filled with changes and transitions, it is fitting to celebrate a cohort that has been defined by their ability to adapt to unique and unprecedented times. This cohort's first and second years at Clemson were shaped by the COVID-19 epidemic, as they had to continually adjust to ever-changing environments: remote school after Spring Break of their freshman year, hybrid instruction and new safety protocols sophomore and junior year, and a tentative return to some semblance of normalcy senior year that felt abnormal to a group who had only known change.

At the same time, the National Scholars Program was going through its own leadership changes, seeing Dr. Sarah Winslow move from Director of the NSP to become Clemson Honors College's Inaugural Dean, welcoming Dr. Andrew Pyle as Interim Director, and finally, welcoming in Kris Fuller as Associate Director.

Through all the changes and challenges, the 2019 cohort persevered and thrived. We are incredibly proud of this group, who has made a lasting impact on Clemson despite their extraordinary circumstances. These scholars started a Creative Inquiry to produce *In the Spotlight*, a podcast offering advice and support to incoming and current college students, from college students. They were organizers and major award winners at CUhackit, editors and writers for student magazines, and instrumental in work with outreach-based organizations like Every Campus a Refuge and the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children. Our seniors took home two of Clemson's most prestigious awards, with Grant Wilkins receiving the Norris Medal for Clemson's best all-around graduating senior and Gracie Boyce receiving the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for outstanding service to Clemson and the surrounding communities. These newest alumni represent the best of our community and exemplify the strength, tenacity, and unlimited potential of all National Scholars.

Sarah Winslow, Ph.D.
Andrew Pyle, Ph.D.
Kris Fuller, M.S., M.S.Ed.



The National Scholars Program strives to create a transformative community offering life-changing experiences and developing thoughtful scholar-leaders who listen, critically examine their place in the world, and use their talents to serve.



BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS



The National Scholars Program office, located in the Honors Center on campus, is open 24/7 for Scholars and staff to gather to work, socialize, and build community.

Many Scholars see this space as their "home away from home." Program staff have offices in the suite and their proximity to Scholars helps them provide the intensive advising and mentoring that is a hallmark of the program.

MEET THE NSP TEAM



Kris Fuller, M.S., M.S. Ed.
Associate Program Director



Alejandro Mejia-Tejada
Graduate Assistant



Andrew Pyle, Ph.D.
Faculty Fellow

SENIOR SCHOLARS

2019 COHORT





NSP has given me a community at Clemson that has supported and encouraged me through all of the ups and downs of college.

Having a physical space on campus filled with people that understand self-imposed academic pressure and share the motivation to succeed is so beneficial to a sense of belonging on a big campus.

The NSP scholarship has allowed me to focus on pursuing extra-curricular activities, leadership roles, and internships without concern for how much they pay, which has opened so many doors and provided me with countless formative experiences. The connections with other cohorts, alumni, and faculty has also been invaluable in networking and mentorship opportunities.

KATY BORTZ

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP &
POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.A.
HISTORY MINOR



HIGHLIGHTS

- Doris R. Helms Award for the Women's Leadership senior with the most outstanding academic record
- Internship with Senator Mark R. Warner's Office
- Clemson University Commission on Women Undergraduate Representative
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Pi Sigma Alpha
- Alpha Lambda Delta
- Order of Omega
- Best Representative from the House Award for South Carolina Student Legislature
- Top Orator from Clemson at Moot Court Competition

GRACIE BOYCE

ECONOMICS, B.A.
POLITICAL SCIENCE &
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
MINORS



NSP has provided me with constant encouragement and connections while at Clemson. My fellow Scholars are always there to celebrate my successes or uplift me if I experience a disappointment, and I love being there to do the same for them. I've also met many great faculty members because of their connection to the National Scholars Program.

Overall, the National Scholars Program has given me incredible friends and opportunities that have made my experience at Clemson much more enriching.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Fulbright US Student Program Semifinalist
- Harvey J. Wheeler Award for Outstanding Senior in Economics
- 2023 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Student Award
- Departmental Honors in Economics (thesis on the effectiveness of various incentives in public health initiatives)
- Student Basic Needs Coalition, South Carolina Chapter (State Director 2022 - 2023, Policy Director Fall 2021 - Spring 2022)
- Clemson University Symphony Orchestra (Fall 2019 - Spring 2023; Vice President Fall 2022 - Spring 2023)
- Peter G. Peterson Fiscal Policy Intern at the Progressive Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. (Summer 2022)
- Special Projects Intern at Nephron Pharmaceuticals (Summer 2021)



The community the National Scholars Program provided enhanced my undergraduate experience in ways I would never have thought of coming in as a freshman. I was able to connect and learn from people of all years, majors, and experiences, and always knew there were people I could turn to for support or advice, academic or otherwise.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Clemson University Writing Fellow
- Conservation of Marine Resources Creative Inquiry
- Outstanding Senior in Biological Sciences
- Departmental Honors in Biological Sciences
- Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
- Clemson Biological Sciences Annual Student Symposium 1st Place
- Intern at marine conservation nonprofit



LAUREN BULIK

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL
RESOURCES (CONCENTRATION:
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY) &
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, B.S.

JONATHAN DANIEL

COMPUTER SCIENCE, B.S.



Being a member of the National Scholars Program gave me the confidence to push myself and pursue my goals.

If you told Freshman Jonathan that he would be working at Netflix, publishing a paper on Machine Learning research, and teaching a tap dancing class, he would've thought you were insane. What I did expect from NSP was to have mentorship, but what I got was a family. The people that I have met in this program push me to explore all of my passions, and provide a safe space for me to try new things with their love and support. I cannot imagine that I would be in this position if I had not been in this program, and I am excited to see what the awesome students here do next!

HIGHLIGHTS

- CuseHacks 2021 Best COVID Hack (competed with Aaron Woolfolk)
- CUhackit 2020 Best Beginner Hack (competed with Aaron Woolfolk)
- HelloWorld 2019 Best AR/VR Hack (competed with Aaron Woolfolk)
- Presented Research at Inaugural Honors Research Symposium (Fall 2022)
- Presented Research at Clemson Student Research Forum (Spring 2023)
- Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022: CEVAC Data Science UPIC Internship
- Summer 2021: Technology Intern at State Farm
- Fall 2021: Software Engineering Intern at Meta
- Spring 2022: Software Engineering Intern at Lyft

SABRINA MANJI

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, B.S.



Throughout the past four years, the community that the NSP has created has served as some of the most powerful inspiration for my path. The National Scholars Program has not only allowed me to have a great deal of freedom in choosing the opportunities that I pursued as a student and will continue to pursue beyond graduation, but has also offered a host of mentors, resources, and connections to help me in those pursuits.

The NSP has an undeniable way of creating a community that is extremely motivating, high-achieving, and ambitious, but is incredibly supportive and full of warmth.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Formula SAE Aerodynamics Division Member
- Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Member
- Student Funding Board Representative
- University Innovation Fellows
- Brooke Owens Fellowship Semifinalist
- Facilitator and Speaker at 2023 University Innovation Fellow Meeting at Stanford's d.school
- SpaceX - Responsible Engineering Intern on the Falcon Payload Accommodations Team
- Tesla - Manufacturing Engineering Intern on the Global Launch and Execution Team

MADDIE MAYLATH

POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.S.
(PUBLIC POLICY CONCENTRATION)



The relationships I've made through NSP have been instrumental in making me both a better student and engaged citizen in the world around me. The abundance of knowledge, passion, and brilliant ideas that my fellow scholars bring to the table has never ceased to amaze me. Their energy and capability for creating positive change has motivated me and ultimately helped me have the courage to forge the right path for myself, even when it was one I wasn't sure of. NSP is a group of like minded, wonderful people, and I have it to thank for my most treasured friendships and experiences at Clemson.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Political Science Departmental Award
- Jack Tuttle Pi Sigma Alpha Service Award
- Dixon Global Policy Scholars
- Adair for US Congress campaign
- Political Science Honors Thesis on TANF spending in the US states
- Editor & Writer for the Pendulum foreign affairs magazine
- Editor & Writer for the Aurantiaco humanities & social sciences journal
- Stories of Refuge, Detention, and Hospitality Creative Inquiry



NSP has meant more to me than any other opportunity I have been privileged to experience. The combination of a community, with an enrichment program, and with studying abroad has been special to say the least.

Specifically for me I am forever grateful to have the chance to study out of state at a school with so many amazing faculty and staff. I truly think the most pivotal moment in my life so far has been receiving my offer to join the National Scholars Program, and I will never look back.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Norris Medal
- Churchill Scholarship
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
- Goldwater Scholarship
- Astronaut Scholarship
- Gates-Cambridge Scholarship Finalist
- Outstanding Undergraduate in Discovery Award: Clemson University College of Science
- Most Outstanding Senior: School of Mathematical Sciences
- Ring Director for the Student Alumni Council
- Vice President of Blue Key Honor Society



GRANT WILKINS

COMPUTER ENGINEERING &
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, B.S.

AARON WILLIAMS

BIOENGINEERING, B.S.
(BIOMATERIALS CONCENTRATION)



NSP has greatly impacted my academic journey and I can strongly say I wouldn't have made it to medical school without it. The great mentors, peers, and experiences this program offers you are truly priceless.

You're surrounded by a community that's connected to campus and wants to see you succeed no matter how often you see them in the NSP office. NSP has really made my experience at Clemson and I'm grateful to have been a part of this community, and even though I'm graduating I'll always be a part of the NSPhamily!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Alpha Phi Alpha Brother of the year (2x)
- Two Creative Inquiry research undergraduate grants
- Presented at Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized scientists
- Presented research on a liver drug that targeted a CB1 receptor at Research Triangle Park Institute
- CECAS Student Advisory Board member for Bioengineering Department
- Phi Delta Epsilon
- Appointed Assistant Area 1 Director of Alpha Phi Alpha
- Started the Hollis Academy Tutoring Initiative in Alpha Phi Alpha

TERRYN WITHERSPOON

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, B.S.
SOCIOLOGY MINOR



NSP gave me the opportunity to choose any path that I wanted to go down in college and beyond. I had the financial and community support from NSP to feel comfortable exploring all of my options in college. My cohort became my closest friends and support system during the COVID-19 pandemic. They made that year as enjoyable as any other year I've had since.

HIGHLIGHTS

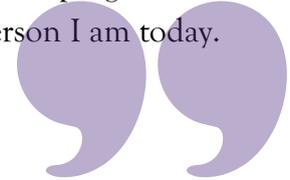
- Creator of the In the Spotlight Podcast
- United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions - Health Policy Internship
- Summer program educator for the Breakthrough Scholars Program
- Undergraduate Researcher in the Bioengineering Department at Clemson University
- Research Internship in the Sociology Department at Clemson University
- Summer Research Intern in the Materials Science and Engineering Department at Clemson University

AARON WOOLFOLK

COMPUTER SCIENCE, B.S.
PHILOSOPHY MINOR



NSP has had an enormous impact on my college experience and life. The scholarship freed me up to explore topics of interest, internships, and opportunities that would have been very difficult to do otherwise. And the people I met in and through the program have shaped the person I am today.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Technical Director at WoolfolkWorks startup - Summer 2020
- Database specialist and Data Analyst at Point University - Summer 2021
- Intern Cloud Engineer at Ally - Summer 2022
- Played at four concerts across four semesters as the Clemson University Jazz Ensemble (The Jungaleers) Drummer/Percussionist
- CuseHacks 2021 Best COVID-19 Related Hack (competed with Jonathan Daniels)
- CUHackit Best Beginner Hack (competed with Jonathan Daniels)
- Created Creative Inquiry and Podcast: In The Spotlight - CCARE Special Research Group. (over 1000 views)

A group of diverse young adults are sitting in a lounge area, engaged in conversation. The room is decorated with numerous international flags hanging from the ceiling and a large world map on the wall. Large windows in the background offer a view of an outdoor stadium. The atmosphere is casual and social.

FOSTERING AN NSP COMMUNITY

This year included the return of some hallmark NSP programs, new opportunities for growth and engagement, and celebrating the contributions and achievements of our graduating Scholars while welcoming our new cohort to campus.

NSP Faculty Recognition (May 2022)

Last spring, Andrew Pyle, who served as Interim NSP Director, received the Douglas W. Bradbury Award to recognize his outstanding contributions to the Honors College.

New Scholar Retreat & Welcome Back Dinner (August 18, 2022)

Our new and returning Scholars began building mentoring connections at a New Scholar Retreat held just after their arrival on campus to start the new academic year.

Family Weekend Tailgate (September 17, 2022)

Students, families, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate more than \$64,000 in annual contributions to the NSP Excellence Fund. This year's Natty Cup winners were: 2019 (current students), 2016 (alumni cohort), and 2022 (parent cohort).

NSP Weekend (March 3-4, 2023)

We welcomed more than two dozen high school students from across the country to interview for the NSP and learn more about opportunities available to them through the Honors College and Clemson University. Alumni, parents, and current students enthusiastically welcomed them to campus and shared their experiences with the NSP. After this event the 2023 cohort was selected, consisting of nine Scholars representing four states and four academic colleges.

Senior Mentor Dinner (April 25, 2023)

Each year, our senior cohort celebrates their time at Clemson by recognizing a mentor who has been pivotal in their undergraduate experience. These mentors – classroom instructors, research mentors, internship supervisors – receive the National Scholars Program Award of Distinction in recognition of their contributions to our students' academic, personal, and professional development.

Senior Send-Off (April 30, 2023)

Scholars and program staff gathered for a final celebration of our 2019 Scholar cohort, complete with our traditional Senior Superlative "paper plate" awards.

NSP Scholar Recognition (May 2023)

Gracie Boyce was recognized as one of the recipients of the University's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, given in recognition of the recipient's influence for good, excellence in maintaining high ideals and of living and service before self. Grant Wilkins was awarded the Norris Medal, the highest honor for a student at Clemson University.



NATIONAL SCHOLARS STUDY ABROAD IN SPAIN



Our second, third and fourth-year National Scholars experienced a unique Maymester study-travel opportunity in Spain with Dean Winslow and Dr. Raquel Anido, Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Languages at Clemson. Scholars explored the region's culture, history, and art, with a special focus on the co-existence of the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish religions in the country's past and present.



NATIONAL SCHOLARS STUDY ABROAD IN GERMANY



Our first-year National Scholars explored Germany and the Netherlands with Interim NSP Program Director Dr. Andrew Pyle and Honors College Manager of International and Special Programs Melissa Hawkins. The Scholars explored the countries and forged a connection with OTH (Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule) University in Regensburg.



Support the NSP



The National Scholars Program is grateful for the generous support of several Clemson alumni and friends for endowments and other major gifts, including:

- Smith-Westmoreland Endowment
- National Scholars Program Endowment
- National Scholars Program Excellence (Natty Cup)
- Smyth McKissick Endowment
- The von Rosenberg Annual National Scholars Fund
- Richard A. McMahan Endowment for the Clemson National Scholars
- P.W. and Barbara McAlister Clemson National Scholars - Class of 1941 Endowed Scholarship
- Class of 1941 Clemson National Scholars Endowment
- Paul W. and Barbara D. McAlister Clemson National Scholars, A Class of '41 Initiative
- J. Anderson Berly III, Class of 1978
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bishop Jr., Class of 1965

To make a gift, please visit:

bit.ly/nsp-give



LOOKING FORWARD



The coming year will be focused on increased engagement with our students, with our alumni, and in our communities.

Building on the Program's Scholars-Focused Approach

The program's new Associate Director, Kris Fuller, is also an NSP alum. Since their graduation in 2018, they have focused their career on positively impacting the lives of young people and helping them succeed - a path they say is rooted in their own NSP experience. Kris will soon be joined by a Director of Scholarships Programs for the Honors College, who will provide strategic direction to both the NSP and the Breakthrough Scholars Program to collectively build initiatives that support student development and success, strengthening both programs in the process.

Growing the NSP Alumni Community

There are also plans to strengthen connections with NSP Scholar alumni, and the program's families and friends, to enhance the NSP network and create opportunities for current Scholars. For example, Associate NSP Director Kris Fuller travelled to Washington, DC with Dean Winslow and Senior Associate Dean Jeff Fine in July, where they hosted a dinner attended by nearly a dozen Scholar alumni from eight different cohorts, spanning almost the entire history of the program. They also organized a networking social hour for current Honors DC interns to forge their own connections with alumni and others in the region, and met with academic and industry partners to discuss potential future partnerships.

We Need You!

If you have an internship opportunity, want to serve as a resource, or simply reconnect with the National Scholars Program, email national_scholars@clermson.edu. We'd love to hear from you!



National Scholars Program

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