

NSP YEAR IN REVIEW



NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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.

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.

ABOUT THE NSP



A Message from the Director...

Every year, we welcome a group of National Scholars with different academic interests, perspectives, and approaches to problem-solving. What unites them is their intellectual curiosity and desire to make a difference. And when our Scholars apply their collective skills, knowledge, talents, and energy to a challenge, it is remarkable to witness. As we celebrate our 2018 scholar cohort in the pages that follow, we also celebrate the lasting legacy they are leaving on Clemson and its surrounding community. They worked together to create and lead the Youth Scholars Program, providing academic tutoring and mentorship to cohorts of high achieving students at Pendleton Elementary, a local Title I school. The goal is to get these students excited about learning and enhance their academic experience by connecting them with Clemson resources. The program is only a few years old but is already making an impact, something I experienced in person at the recent Men of Color Summit in Greenville. I happened upon one of our Youth Scholars at the event, who was both excited to be there and to explore his potential at Clemson. This moment was a great example of the connections our National Scholars make – as students and as leaders – and how their collective efforts can help create a path for a local middle school student to find new possibilities right here at home. Even though the cohort graduated this year, the program will continue to grow as a Creative Inquiry project led by Clemson Honors students well into the future. This is just one example of the myriad other ways that our students and alumni are changing the world every day. It is also indicative of both the power of our National Scholars community – and our limitless potential.

Sarah Winslow, Ph.D.

Director, National Scholars Program
swinslo@clemson.edu



DR. WINSLOW & YOUTH SCHOLAR AMARI WATTS

Student Accomplishments



- National Scholars Program Director Sarah Winslow received the Ted Westmoreland Faculty Excellence Award, which honors a distinguished faculty member who has made exemplary contributions to undergraduate student success at Clemson University.
- Political Science Professor Jeffrey Fine, who plays an important role in the annual National Scholars selection process and has been recognized numerous times with an NSP Award of Distinction for his commitment to mentoring National Scholars, received the Provost Outstanding Senior Teacher Award for sustained, meritorious and exceptional teaching.

- Natalie Claypool was awarded the Norris Medal, the highest honor for a student at Clemson University.
- Ronnie Clevestine and Hannah Roebuck received the 2022 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Student Award, given in recognition of the recipient's influence for good, excellence in maintaining high ideals of living and service before self.
- Ronnie Clevestine received the Clemson University Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Excellence in Service and was the first Clemson student to be recognized as a finalist for both the prestigious Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships.
- Carson Colenbaugh was named a 2021 Udall Scholar for his work in forest conservation and food justice.
- Elise Blackburn was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship through its Program for English Teaching Assistantships in Spain.
- Nick Deas received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which he will use to pursue a Ph.D. in computer science at Columbia University.
- Grant Wilkins received the 2022 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, awarded to students who have the potential to advance research in mathematics, natural sciences and engineering.

Faculty Accomplishments



21

2018 - COHORT

SENIOR SCHOLARS

Roann Abdeladl

HEALTH SCIENCES AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE, BA



- Fulbright Recipient for English Teaching Assistant Award in Spain
- English Research Assistant for Dr. Walt Hunter, investigating American Housing in Poetry
- UEMAC Health Communications Intern for Pacientes con Esclerosis Múltiple
- Advanced Spanish semester study abroad in Seville, Spain
- Nonprofit Director of Camp Kesem at Clemson
- TEFL-certified English Teacher at Kansai University, Japan
- Clemson University Writing Fellow
- Philanthropy Development Intern for Media Reform SC
- NSP New Scholar Retreat Team Leader
- Summer Study Abroad at Stellenbosch University in South Africa
- English Education Mentor for Youth Scholars Program

"The lasting relationships I have formed, facilitated by the National Scholars Program, have unforgettably shaped my Clemson experience. I feel so privileged and humbled by the friends I have in my fellow scholars, and the guidance I have received from NSP staff has challenged and inspired me to be a leader in service to others. The greatest gift of the Program is its invitation to learn in community..."

- Medical Student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
- Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship
- Truman Scholarship Finalist 2021
- Dixon Global Policy Scholar
- Resident Assistant
- Clemson Free Clinic Volunteer
- Clemson Undergraduate Student Government Senate
- Muslim Student Association
- Creative Inquiry: Stories of Refuge, Detention, and Hospitality
- Greenville Health System REEP Creative Inquiry: Prospective Studies of Hyperbaric Chambers to Treat Diabetic Patients



SPANISH LANGUAGE & INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH, BA
NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP MINOR

Elise Blackburn

"I'm very thankful for getting to be a part of a program like NSP that not only focuses on educational enrichment but also on fostering a strong sense of community. The peers in my cohort inspire me so much and I continue to learn so much from each and every one of them..."

- Black Honors Association
- Cuhackit Design Team
- Dixon Global Policy Scholar
- Naval Research and Enterprise Internship Program - Mobile Application and Web Development
- Undergraduate Researcher for Virtual Environments Research Team
- WISE Mentor
- PEER/WISE Academic Enrichment Program
- Summer Study Abroad at Stellenbosch University in South Africa
- President's List
- Dean's List



Natalie Claypool

SPANISH LANGUAGE & INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, BA
PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

"The NSP is so much more than a scholarship or program: it's truly a family that will push you to become all that you've ever dreamed of and more. It has driven me to achieve my wildest dreams while never losing sight of what matters along the way. Every experience that has shaped me, from adventures around the world to the Youth Scholars Program in our own backyard, was created, facilitated, or encouraged by someone in the NSP family."

- Norris Medal
- Bright Horizons Award of Excellence
- President's List
- DASPU Community Health Intern in Córdoba, Argentina (2022)
- Clemson University Early Childhood Education Center Associate Teacher (2021)
- Communications Coordinator & Student Support Intern for Leadership Mission International in Comayagua, Honduras (2021)
- Virtual Student Federal Service Intern for the Indian Health Service Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention (2020-2021)
- Clemson's Challenge for Academically Talented Students (C-CATS) Instructor (2019-2020)
- Semester Study Abroad at Universidad Blas Pascal, Argentina (2022)
- FIMRC Latin America Virtual Global Health Fellowship (2020)
- Summer Study Abroad at Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2019)
- Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition Alternative Fall Break Program (2019)
- Youth Scholars Program Co-founder, Creative Inquiry Teaching Assistant, Head of Student Engagement Committee, Mentor (2018-2021)
- Girl Up Greenville Mentor (2021)
- Camp Courage Counselor (2021)
- Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Director of Engagement (2021)



Destiny Boone

COMPUTER SCIENCE BS,
DIGITAL PRODUCTION ARTS MINOR

Ronnie Clevestine

ECONOMICS BS,
POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR



"In addition to tangible academic and professional support, being a member of the NSP gave me a home and an extended family during a time of transition, pressure, and collective stress during the COVID-19 crisis; we all continued to show up for each other, even when we were unable to be physically present. The community of intellectually curious peers who genuinely cared about my happiness and holistic health fostered a sense of belonging that carried me through my entire four years at Clemson."

- 2021 Truman Scholar for South Carolina
- Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Excellence in Service 2022 Recipient
- Matt Locke Leadership Award 2021 Recipient
- Dixon Global Policy Scholar
- 2020 Duckenfield Scholar
- 2021 Marshall Scholarship Finalist
- 2021 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
- Summer and Fall Economics Research Intern, Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution
- Director, South Carolina Student Basic Needs Coalition
- Co-Executive Director, Clemson Food Collective
- Community Studies Intern, Clemson University Department of Sociology
- Communications Director and Co-Founder, Clemson Youth Scholars Program
- Research Assistant, Food Insecurity Survey Team with Clemson College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences
- Writing Fellow, Clemson University Writing Lab
- Principal Investigator, Political Science Departmental Honors Thesis on State-Level SNAP Restriction
- Principal Investigator, Economics Departmental Honors Thesis on Food Security Measurements as a Marker for Modern Poverty Assessment

- 2021 Udall Foundation Scholar
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Poetry Contributor
- Sewanee Writers' Conference Poetry Contributor
- Southern Wesleyan University Student Poet Award
- Clemson Writers' Harvest Student Poet Award
- President, Student Association for Fire Ecology
- Volunteer Coordinator, Clemson Food Collective
- Mentor, Youth Scholars Program
- CAFLS Student Ambassador
- NSP Retreat Team Leader
- Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis in Anthropology and Forestry addressing Cherokee Cultural Sovereignty Following Federal Fire Exclusion "Burn Bans"
- UPIC internship assessing forest response to various silvicultural techniques
- UPIC internship creating an Ecological Departure Index for the Jocassee Gorges
- Research technician work maximizing cutting production in Cannabis
- Appalachian Fire Ecology Creative Inquiry
- Sustainable Landscape Demonstration Garden Creative Inquiry
- Clemson "Fire Tigers" USFS Prescribed Burn Crew

"The National Scholars program was essential to my experiences and success at Clemson University. The close network of caring friends, mentors, and faculty that NSP has makes the vast Clemson ecosystem significantly more accessible. Help, opportunities, and even just someone to talk to are always one email or text away. Being a part of the NSP gave me a personal and professional community in which I was able to find my niche and thrive."

Carson Colenbaugh

HORTICULTURE BS,
FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MINOR



"Through the program and other National Scholars, I was afforded amazing opportunities, such as conducting research with the group I have been involved with for the past 3 years and working with a group of entrepreneurs to develop a startup founded with another National Scholar, that have characterized my undergraduate career. Further, I have grown and learned more about myself than I ever would have outside of the program, learning when to ask for help when I need it, the value of having a group to support you, and how to make a meaningful impact in my community."

Nicholas Deas

COMPUTER SCIENCE BS
PSYCHOLOGY BS
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MINOR

- Upsilon Pi Epsilon Computing Honors Society
- Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society
- Davenport Scholars
- Best Undergraduate Research Poster; Midwest Political Science Association
- Cullinet Outstanding Senior Award; Clemson School of Computing
- DuPont Best Undergraduate Project Scholarship; Clemson School of Computing
- Best Use of Data Award; Clemson Hackathon
- Overall Hackathon Runner-up; Booz Allen Hamilton Hackathon
- Best Use of Google Cloud Platform; Clemson Hackathon
- Social Psychology Creative Inquiry Researcher
- Machine Learning Creative Inquiry Researcher
- Data Science Research Lead
- Natural Language Processing Undergraduate Researcher
- Giant Oak; Junior Data Scientist
- Bet On It LLC; Co-Founder and CTO



McCormick Emge

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING BS
MUSIC MINOR

- Scott Hendricks Jazz Award
- Member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity
- Member of Eta Kappa Nu electrical engineering honors fraternity
- Founding member of Epsilon Tau Pi Eagle Scout fraternity
- Assistant Audio Technician for Clemson Audio Technology Department
- Chief Engineer of WSBF-FM Clemson
- Pianist for Clemson University "Jungaleers" jazz band
- Audio Electronics Repair Technician at Fox Music House (internship)

"The National Scholars Program has been a focal aspect of my undergraduate experience at Clemson, thanks to the community of students, mentors, and friends that I found within it! I'm very grateful for the community and experiences that the NSP provided me, particularly studying abroad in South Africa. It allowed me to learn and grow myself outside of just my degree."





Hannah Roebuck

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE DOUBLE MAJOR

"The National Scholars Program welcomed me into new ways of thinking, relating, serving, and giving. I am so grateful for the community of justice and service-oriented scholar leaders within the NSP. I have walked in the legacy of giants, and I leave behind an unparalleled and diverse group of innovators. I hope to have made them all proud."

- Algernon Sydney Sullivan Student Award
- Phi Kappa Phi Certificate of Merit from AAH
- Dre Martin Service Award from AAH
- James F Byrnes Award, political science department's top award
- Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement from the CBSHS
- Clemson History Committee Founder and Director, Student Government
- Youth Scholars Program
- The Pendulum International Affairs Magazine, Editor
- Council of Diversity Affairs, Student Government
- Clemson Global Engagement Volunteer
- Honors Student Advisory Board Chair and Member
- Honors College Curriculum Committee Student Representative
- Elections Board, Student Government
- Creative Inquiry: Stories of Refuge, Detention, and Hospitality
- Departmental Honors Political Science Research
- Lead Research Assistant, Dr. Michael LeMahieu
- Political Science Research Assistant, Dr. Laura Olson
- ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference Presentation
- Clemson Women's Leadership Conference Presentation
- New American Pathways Reception and Placement Intern
- Refuge Coffee Co. Community Development Intern

- Technical Art Internship at Unity Technologies
- Technical Art Internship at Interactive Data Visualization Inc. (SpeedTree)
- UPIC Internship for the National Scholars Program
- CUhackit – Clemson's student-led hackathon organizing team (Head of Design)
- BothoHacks – Botswana's first university-level hackathon (Head of Design)
- Youth Scholars Program (Education Committee)

"I am so grateful for the community that the National Scholars Program has given me over the past four years. I have learned from and grown with my cohort, and I am amazed at how far we have come as individuals. As I get ready to step onto a new path, I know that the NSP has been a key part of the story of how I got here. My time in and the people of the NSP have given me confidence to boldly forge my own way in life."



Mira Pichai

COMPUTER SCIENCE BA
DIGITAL PRODUCTION ARTS,
JAPANESE MINORS

Kat Terwelp

MICROBIOLOGY BS
BIOMEDICINE CONCENTRATION



"NSP was much more than a scholarship. The sense of community has survived the alienation of the pandemic. I loved the seminars because they were an insightful look into how social structures play a role in everything we experience. My favorite experience with NSP was the study abroad trip in South Africa. Rather than just going to South Africa, the deep dive into the history and culture before the trip made the experience wonderfully unique. "

- President's List
- Writing Fellow
- Phi Kappa Phi Member
- Awarded SciSAB GIAR
- Awarded Sigma Xi GIAR
- Vice President, Clemson Microbiological Society
- Vice-Chair of the Grant Board, College of Science Student Advisory Board
- Summer Intern at Wake Forest School of Medicine CPM
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Metapopulation Research
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Insect Bioelectricity
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Parasitoid Wasp Sampling
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, DNA Repair and Genome Instability
- Research Participant, 2018 EUREKA! Program

- Summer Scholar, Deloitte Global & Public Services
- Software Engineering Intern, Clemson Energy and Visualization Center
- Best Messaging Hack Finalist, PearlHacks 2019
- Director, CUhackit: South Carolina's largest hackathon organization
- Hacker, HackGT 2018/2019, PearlHacks 2019/2020, Bon Hackétit 2020
- Lead Computer Science Organizer, Clemson WISE Girl Scouts Day
- School of Computing Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019, Fall 2021

"The National Scholars Program has given me my best friends, the most impactful mentors, and an amazing community that has become the hallmark of my Clemson experience. I am so grateful for the courses, travel, and constant support provided by NSP. College is a huge challenge, and I would not have gotten through it in the same way without NSP as my home base. The program has been an incredible gift of community and has lifted me up in phenomenal ways that will shape the rest of my life to come."

Helena Upshaw

COMPUTER SCIENCE BA
SUSTAINABILITY MINOR



FOSTERING AN NSP COMMUNITY



This academic year marked a return to greater normalcy, as we returned to campus and resumed many of the celebratory and community-building events that form the hallmark of the National Scholars experience.

- **Family Weekend Tailgate (September 18, 2021)**

Students, families, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered for our first event including those other than staff and scholars since February 2020. We celebrated nearly \$60,000 in annual contributions to the NSP Excellence fund and recognized this year's Natty Giving Cup winners: the 2021 Scholar Cohort (current students), 2016 Scholar Cohort (alumni cohort), and 2021 parent cohort.

- **NSP Weekend (February 24-25, 2022)**

We returned to in-person selection activities, welcoming two dozen high school students from across the country to interview for the NSP and learn more about the opportunities available to them at Clemson University. Alumni, parents, and current students enthusiastically welcomed them to campus and shared their experiences with the NSP.

- **Senior Mentor Dinner (April 25, 2022)**

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 29, 2022)**

Scholars and program staff gathered for a final celebration of our 2018 Scholar Cohort, complete with our traditional Senior Superlative “paper plate” awards.

- **Connection Series**

When we returned to campus for the 2021-22 academic year after two years of online learning, NSP faculty and staff planned a series of activities, such as movie days and game days, to create a new sense of community and connection with one another.



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

- Smith-Westmoreland Endowment
- NSP Endowment
- NSP 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. & Barbara D. McAlister Clemson National Scholars, A Class of '41 Initiative
- J. Anderson Berly III, Class of 1978
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Bishop Jr., class of 1965

To make a gift, please visit: bit.ly/nsp-give

SUPPORT NSP



- 13 new scholars joining the program, representing 6 states and 5 academic colleges
- Bringing back study abroad experiences, including 14 Scholars traveling across South Africa for 10 days (11 are also spending an additional four weeks at Stellenbosch University)

LOOKING FORWARD



National Scholars Program

CLEMSON® UNIVERSITY

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