EXPERIENCE. DISCOVERY.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
2016–2017 ANNUAL REPORT
NSP sponsored a visit by Susan Clampet-Lundquist, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at St. Joseph’s University and co-author of *Coming of Age in the Other America*.

Two National Scholars traveled to Austin, Texas, to participate in the Undergraduate Scholars Program Administrators Association’s “Scholar Summit.”

The program hosted the inaugural edition of the NSP Brown Bag Series, a chance for scholars to connect with prominent faculty on campus for conversations about research, graduate school, employment, and life.

Director of the NSP and Sociology professor Sarah Winslow, Ph.D., continued to lead the Freshman Seminar, a course on social inequality called “Who Gets What and Why?”

NSP Faculty Fellow Michael LeMahieu, Ph.D., oversaw the NSP Senior Seminar, in which graduating scholars revisit their freshman seminar on the Civil War and the civil rights movement.

History professor James Burns, Ph.D., continued a course on African history to prepare first-year scholars for travels to Johannesburg, Durban, and Kruger National Park in South Africa before their summer study abroad at Stellenbosch University.

History professor Steve Marks, Ph.D., taught a spring course on the history of Amsterdam and the Netherlands. Following the course, 21 Scholars will join Marks on an 8-day trip to Amsterdam and the surrounding area.

Scholar Austin Herbst won the Norris Medal, the highest honor given to a graduating senior.

Scholar Jennifer Wilson won the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Graduates are pursuing graduate degrees at Cornell University, Harvard Medical School, Oxford University, and the University of Wisconsin.

These newest alumni are employed by Boeing, Deloitte Consulting LLP, Epic, ExxonMobil Chemical, Garvin Design Group, and State Farm. One is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in East Timor.

National Scholars joined our program in August 2016.

$375,000 donated to the NSP Excellence Fund since its inception.

The moments that marked an unforgettable 17th year for the National Scholars Program at Clemson University

Class of 2016 Success

2016–2017 Program Highlights

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The National Scholars Program at Clemson University is a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to dig deep; uncover their true selves; explore their unique callings; and reach their fullest potential.

The challenging program offers unmatched learning experiences to a select group of top students, aiming to enhance their intellectual, professional and personal development through a dynamic, creative and engaging array of educational enrichment experiences.

As inquisitive learners, National Scholars strive to understand the world around them and to share their knowledge with others. As leaders in key roles on campus, Scholars shape student life and academic life at Clemson. And as National Scholars, these men and women form a strong community, challenging and supporting each other in their endeavors.

In its 17 years, The National Scholars Program has welcomed 178 National Scholars, chosen from nearly 700 finalists and thousands of Honors College applicants. Scholars have excelled inside and outside the classroom, serving as leaders of student organizations, participating in intramural sports and service clubs, being elected to numerous honor societies, winning prestigious awards, and securing graduate school and employment placements at some of the top universities and organizations in the world.

In September 2016, the program moved into a new space in Core Campus, a 260,000-square-foot facility located at the center of campus that includes student housing, retail and residential dining, and the Calhoun Honors College. This move will continue to help the program evolve and reach new heights.

We invite you to be inspired as you discover The National Scholars Program at Clemson University and read about our 2016–2017 academic year filled with accomplishments and opportunities.

We’re proud of the foundation we’ve set. We hope you’ll be a part as our impact grows.

The NSP is thankful to the Clemson Office of Development for its support and deeply grateful for the considerable generosity of several Clemson alumni and friends, including the following:

The estate of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Ballenger, Class of 1923
J. Anderson Berly III, Class of 1978
Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Bishop Jr., Class of 1965
Dr. and Mrs. Paul W. McAlister, Class of 1941

The E. Smyth McKissick III Class of 1979 Clemson National Scholars Endowment
Dr. and Mrs. Richard A. McMahan, Class of 1954
Dr. and Mrs. R. Roy Pearce, Class of 1941

The Smith-Westmoreland Scholars Endowment for Clemson National Scholars
The von Rosenberg Family Endowment for Clemson National Scholars
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew A. Lykken
The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Carroll

Additionally, the NSP family has donated more than $375,000 to the NSP Excellence Fund since 2009.
The 2017 graduates of the National Scholars Program at Clemson University represent the cream of the crop. As we review and celebrate their accomplishments, we remain impressed by the legacy they will leave behind and the promising futures they will create for themselves, our university and our world.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS.

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SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

- Bioengineering research with John DesJardins, Ph.D., focusing on the development of rapid manufactured foot orthotics for diabetics
- Participation in the 2016 Summer DeFINE (Design Fundamentals In Needs-finding Experience) Program with immersion in the Greenville Health System
- Summer internship with TechMach, LLC in Knoxville, TN
- FIMRC (Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children) trip to the Alajuelita clinic in Costa Rica

KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:

- Participation in Clemson's 2014 Leadershape Institute
- Omega Delta Kappa Honor Society (Vice President)
- Alpha Eta Mu Beta National Biomedical Engineering Honor Society
- Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society
- NSP Retreat Team (Leader, Member)
- Donors for Life (Founder)
- Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society (Vice President)
- Calhoun Honors College (Mentor, Ambassador)
- Student Athlete Tutor

KATELYN RAGLAND
Knoxville, TN
Bioengineering

I thought ‘finding yourself’ in college was a hoax for those who didn’t have plans. I soon learned that each of us would unquestionably be tossed into Clemson’s unique environment of inspiration, exploration, and support where we all matured. In particular, THE NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM CHALLENGED MY PRECONCEPTIONS while simultaneously surrounding me with kind-hearted students. We each were similarly driven to excel, but in diverse focuses—spreading across the 17,000 acres of campus and the 7 continents of the globe.

SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

- Cooperative education internship at Dority & Manning, P.A. in Greenville, SC, assisting attorneys and paralegals with patent prosecution
- Summer study abroad at St. Peter’s College at the University of Oxford, studying Jane Austen in text and context
- EUREKA! microbiology research with Jeremy Tzeng, Ph.D., investigating therapeutic potential of Chinese herb in treatment of type II diabetes
- iGEM Creative Inquiry, Clemson’s synthetic biology research team, studying the development of a universal self-amplifying biosensor for pathogen detection

KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:

- Clemson Writing Fellow
- The Tiger newspaper (News Editor, Assistant News Editor, Staff Writer)
- Duckenfield Scholar
- Clemson Global Symposium
- Beta Beta Beta Biological Sciences Honor Society
- Upstate Institute of YOUTH Programs, Inc. (Tutor)
- President’s List
- American Society of Microbiology
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

GRACE GREENE
McDonough, GA
Microbiology

The first word that comes to mind when thinking of the NSP is ‘opportunity.’ AS A NATIONAL SCHOLAR, I’VE BEEN GIVEN COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES—opportunities to explore my academic interests, to make life-long friends, to network with prestigious alumni, to travel the world, to participate in a nourishing intellectual community of peers and professors. College is what you make of it. The NSP, with all its opportunities, has helped me have an amazing undergraduate experience.
SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:
- Teaching position in elementary school in Kayamandi, South Africa
- Semester-long study abroad experience in Stellenbosch, South Africa, including medical shadowing work
- Internship position through the Clemson Career Center for Professional Development through the UPIC program

KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:
- Creative Inquiry work with Leidy Klotz, Ph.D., on his book, "Seeing Sustainability Through Soccer"
- Blue Key Honor Society (Historian)
- Hearts for the Arts service organization (Founder and Director)
- Writing Center (Peer Tutor)
- Clemson University Tour Guide
- Alpha Lambda Delta (Community Service Director)
- Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society
- Clemson’s literary magazine, The Chronicle (contributing author)
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

CAROLINE HENSLEY
Waxhaw, NC
Health Sciences and English

I know that I am a better thinker and a better person thanks to my involvement in the National Scholars Program. The level of critical thought required by our NSP courses, discussions, and relationships has fully equipped me to meet future goals, but more importantly, I think **THIS PROGRAM HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO GO ABOUT CARING WELL FOR MYSELF AND OTHERS.** The plentiful lessons I’ve learned in NSP will serve me well for many years to come.

SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:
- Research under Rhett Smith, Ph.D., studying various aspects of ADHD essential for patient and parent knowledge. Co-authored a published guidance book based on this research: *Becoming an Expert Parent: Your Concise Primer on ADHD and Related Conditions* (Becoming an Expert Parent Series) (Volume 1)
- Research under Kayla Wilson, Ph.D. Student, creating a device application aiming to increase efficiency of day-to-day tasks in the hospital environment for nurses
- Medical University of South Carolina Child Life Volunteer

KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:
- Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society (President)
- Alpha Delta Pi (Greek Week Chair and Scholarship Chair)
- Calhoun Honors College (Honors Ambassador)
- Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society (Social Chair)
- Order of Omega Honor Society
- Alpha Eta Mu Beta Bioengineering Honor Society
- Vickery Student-Athlete Tutor

CARTE ELLIS
Mount Pleasant, SC
Bioengineering

Before becoming a part of the NSP, I had seen very little of the world and lacked the perspective and confidence that makes me the independent individual that I am today. The NSP gave me opportunities I never imagined possible and enabled me to push outside of my comfort zone in all aspects. Because of this program, I am not only a better student, but also a better and more well-rounded person. The people and experiences that I have encountered have **PREPARED ME TO JOIN THE WORLD AND ALL THAT COMES WITH IT,** and I can’t thank this program enough for supporting, guiding, and shaping me as I travel along my path to a medical career.
SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:
- Research assistant for Glenn Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering and Science Education Department under supervision of Jeff Plumblee, Ph.D. Focused on publishing research from infrastructure projects in rural Haiti including rural water systems, concrete block manufacturing facilities, and aquaculture development programs. Also evaluated data sets and assessments of Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries’ (CEDC’s) impact on students and Haitians.
- Research with Thomas Cousins, Ph.D. and Brandon Ross, Ph.D., on the use of ultra-high performance concrete (UHPC) in NEXT-D bridge beams in the United States.
- Research with Leidy Klotz, Ph.D., on sustainable infrastructure systems in developing countries.
- Field Engineer intern with the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company.
- Project Manager of CEDC in Haiti.

Helped oversee multiple infrastructure projects for villages in Haiti’s Central Plateau including design and construction of rural water systems, schools, and churches.


KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:
- Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries (Program Director, Project Management Director)
- Grand Challenge Scholars Program (Founder, President)
- Engineers Without Borders (Vice-President)
- Calhoun Honors College Student Advisory Board
- Herbert W. Busching Outstanding Junior Award
- Omicron Delta Kappa, Service for Society Award
- Hambright Leadership Fellow

I HAVE LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A NETWORK OF GREAT PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT EACH OTHER. I wouldn’t have had the same experience without these amazing friends, especially the ones I’ve made through NSP.

JACKI ROHDE
Arlington Heights, IL
Bioengineering

KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:
- PAL Leader for the Academic Success Center
- President of Engineering World Health
- Grand Challenge Scholar
- Creative Inquiry (Designing Medical Technologies for the Developing World)

- Honors College Ambassador
- Member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Alpha Lambda Delta

AARON GORDON
Bethesda, MD
Civil Engineering

BEING A NATIONAL SCHOLAR AND HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT HAS PREPARED ME FOR A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER by providing travel opportunities like our trip to South Africa, programs like Dixon Global Policy Scholars, and first-class guidance from dedicated faculty and staff.
The National Scholars Program fosters a diverse community of brilliant minds and unique talents. Discussions on a limitless range of topics, extensive travels, and our myriad of adventures have provided me with **NEW PERSPECTIVES AND UNRIVALED SUPPORT IN MY OWN ENDEAVORS**. I can’t imagine my college experience without the people the NSP has brought into my life, and I’m incredibly grateful and humbled to have been offered such wonderful opportunities through the program.

**SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:**
- Dixon Global Policy Scholars Maymester
- Study abroad at Stellenbosch University in South Africa
- Engineers Without Borders in La Pintada, Nicaragua
- National Scholars Program Maymester in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Study abroad at the University of Granada in Granada, Spain
- Bioengineering research on bioactive tissue adhesives with Ken Webb, Ph.D.
- National Scholars Program Intern
- Volunteer with Clemson University’s Joseph F. Sullivan Center at the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Clinic
- RAPPERS Clinical Research with Greenville Hospital System investigating the ability of physicians to predict injuries on blunt force trauma patients prior to CT imaging and examining the accuracy of their prognosis after the CT has been read by radiology
- Creative Inquiry with Katherine Weisensee, Ph.D. focusing on creating a digital database for the Pickens County Coroner’s Office

**KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:**
- Order of Omega Greek Leadership Honor Society
- Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society (President)
- Mortar Board National Honor Society (Vice President)
- Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society (Secretary)

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**SELECT LEARNING EXPERIENCES:**
- Summer internships at Dynetics Inc. working as an analyst in the Electronic Warfare Division
- Bioengineering Creative Inquiry with Delphine Dean, Ph.D., designing medical devices for the developing world
- Research with Ian Walker, Ph.D., and Apoorva Kapadia, Ph.D., involving computer vision and depth tracking of robotic arm
- Semester-long study abroad in Melbourne, Australia at Victoria University

**KEY LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION:**
- Grand Challenge Scholars (President)
- Engineering World Health (Vice-President)
- Academic Success Center (Peer Tutor)
The National Scholars Program provides a foundation for students not only to participate in the Clemson experience, but also to excel in it. Through NSP, I have had the opportunity to pursue projects I’m passionate about, both in Clemson and abroad, and have been constantly encouraged to take initiative over my education. The NSP helps develop students into independent, thoughtful, and empathetic leaders, and I’m confident that **my experience has prepared me for whatever challenges lie ahead.**

**Select Learning Experiences:**
- Departmental Honors in Screenwriting (Comedy) with Nic Brown
- Production Intern at *Late Night with Seth Meyers* in New York, NY
- Clemson Pearce Center for Professional Communication Intern

**Key Leadership and Recognition:**
- Sigma Kappa Sorority (Executive Vice President, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Communications)
- Slow Food of Clemson (Treasurer)
- Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society
- Order of Omega Honor Society
- Calhoun Honors College Peer Mentor
- Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

**Claire Spellberg**
Chevy Chase, MD
English

**The NSP is more than just a scholarship program;** it is a community of different-minded people who continuously encourage each other to learn from diverse viewpoints and ideas. Through travel, mentorship, and courses, the National Scholars Program has provided me with opportunities to experience vastly different cultures and areas of study. Perhaps most importantly, the friends I’ve made through NSP have demonstrated to me the possibility of being simultaneously passionate, hard-working, and incredibly selfless and have unknowingly helped me grow into the person I am today.

**Select Learning Experiences:**
- Summer internship at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO, investigating the energy use of virtual machine computing
- Summer internship at the Climate Institute in Washington, DC, creating a sustainability plan for a carbon-neutral industrial park and airport
- Independent research with Michael Carbajales-Dale, Ph.D., evaluating the potential for utility-scale solar developments in South Carolina
- Senior Thesis Creative Inquiry research with Robert Riggs, Ph.D., and Scott Mason, Ph.D., developing an optimization model to inform scheduling of electric buses
- Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries investigation of wind turbine feasibility as a local source of power

**Key Leadership and Recognition:**
- Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries (Assistant Program Director)
- Clemson Engineers Without Borders (Treasurer)
- National Academy of Engineers Grand Challenge Scholar
- Industrial Engineering Outstanding Junior Award

**Amanda Farthing**
Indialantic, FL
Industrial Engineering

- Tau Beta Pi Scholarship for South Carolina Alpha
- 2016-2017 Tau Beta Pi Scholarship
- YMCA Youth Soccer (Volunteer Coach)
When I started applying to colleges, I knew two things: I would ultimately go into medicine, and I would not go to Clemson. Well, 50% isn’t too bad.

Besides football, I honestly knew nothing about Clemson, despite practically growing up there. NSP Weekend changed all of that for me. Learning about the incredible opportunities available for students and meeting the current and future members of NSP – who represented only a fraction of Clemson’s remarkable student population – quickly changed my thoughts. I was still hesitant about it. I had this grand, ambitious idea that I would go to one of the best medical schools, which I didn’t think would be possible coming from a school like Clemson. But in the end, I chose Clemson over other competitive schools because of the chances to study abroad, research and create my own path.

As I started at Clemson, I planned to become a physician with a career involving a considerable amount of research – I began as a bioengineering major and thought it would be interesting to go into oncology. I joined a bioengineering research lab, and when I realized engineering wasn’t the right major for me, I started research in a biochemistry lab in addition to the lab I was already in. As overambitious as this was, it did teach me a very valuable lesson – I don’t really want to do research full time.

I was also interested in the organization Engineers Without Borders alongside several other Nationals Scholars. I traveled to Nicaragua with EWB twice my freshman year, including my first semester with four other scholars to our partner community, La Pintada. Many of us later saw the community project come to fruition my junior year, when the group helped coordinate the drilling of a new well and installation of a water treatment system that would be operated by community members (and still stands to this day).

EWB was my first experience in international work and global health, but it was nowhere near my last. I was fortunate enough to travel with 35 other students in Clemson’s pre-medical group to Panama.

"When I started this adventure, I compared Clemson to various elite schools and questioned whether it could match them. As I left, I searched for one of those elite schools to match the incredible experience and care that NSP offered me."
and Costa Rica for a volunteer medical trip at the end of my freshman year. The best way I can sum up that trip was a text I sent a friend afterward: “I have never been more sure about going into medicine in my life.” I was hooked. A day after returning, I got on a plane with my friends to South Africa and went abroad for the rest of the summer.

Before graduation, I also had the chance to go to Honduras, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Peru, Ireland, and Northern Ireland for volunteer or educational travels, the vast majority of them sponsored by either NSP or the Calhoun Honors College.

All of these experiences fostered a huge interest in global health; one that isn’t going away anytime soon. In addition to becoming a physician, I am planning to spend time abroad working with health care systems in developing countries. I hadn’t even considered something like this before Clemson; and I don’t think I’d be at this point without Clemson and NSP.

At the end of my junior year, I started applying to medical school. I found myself completing the majority of my secondary applications while back in South Africa – the same location as that first trip with NSP that really left me craving more. After spending a semester learning about the complex history of South Africa in our preparatory course at Clemson, I was a little disappointed that we couldn’t actually do anything to help the community or those suffering from the tremendous amount of inequality. I wanted to go back, and my advisors in NSP helped me prepare an application that allowed me to do so through a program from UVA that worked on public health in rural South Africa.

I learned quickly that it was a great decision to come to Clemson, as it allowed me to explore the world and participate in projects I never could have imagined. Advisors in NSP were always there for me to discuss any difficult decisions, even when I was trying to decide on Clemson. At one point when I found myself a month away from my sophomore summer with no internships set up, three different advisors, including NSP, helped me go from 0 to 3 options in the span of a week. That’s just the atmosphere of Clemson and NSP – everyone wants to see their students succeed, and they’ll all do their best to make sure that happens.

That initial fear of not being competitive finally dissipated my last semester at Clemson. I ended up facing another difficult college decision, one that I had only dreamed I’d face. I chose between Johns Hopkins and Harvard Medical School.

Let me conclude by explaining why I chose Harvard Medical School. Visiting the school to meet current and fellow potential students was simultaneously both one of the most intimidating and inspiring weekends. Every single person there had achieved so many different accomplishments and was so motivated. The community felt and reminded me of NSP. It’s inspiring to be around highly motivated students who are striving for similar yet entirely different goals as you, and I honestly wasn’t entirely ready to give that up. I felt that I could still get that experience and enjoy the support and friendship of peers that NSP had offered me.

When I started this adventure, I compared Clemson to various elite schools and questioned whether it could match them. As I left, I searched for one of those elite schools to match the incredible experience and care that NSP offered me. In addition to the opportunities, mentoring and inspiration offered constantly, NSP really is a family, and it’s one that I wouldn’t trade for the world.
MISSION STATEMENT

In collaboration with other University offices and programs, the mission of Clemson’s National Scholars Program is as follows:

• Recruit and select the top high school students from throughout the United States
• Provide a competitive scholarship that covers all tuition, fees and other required expenses
• Coordinate a rewarding summer of study and travel after freshman year
• Create and program intellectually challenging and rewarding enrichment opportunities
• Provide individual and group advising that addresses and enhances the National Scholars’ interests and skills
• Prepare the National Scholars to excel in graduate school and on fellowship applications

To learn more about opportunities for giving to the National Scholars Program, please reach out to Beth Benzing: eroger5@clemson.edu or 803-271-2948.