

Western Michigan University Faculty Senate

2021 Presidential Scholars



College of Arts and Sciences

Caroline S Wolf

Presidential Scholar in Biological Sciences

Caroline is from Allegan, Michigan and is a graduate of Allegan High School and also attended North Central College. At WMU, she is majoring in biological sciences and minoring in environmental studies. After graduating *summa cum laude* in December of 2020, she took a year to determine her future educational goals and directions. Currently, Caroline is working with Dr. Sharon Gill studying Mental Time Travel in animals, more specifically, Yellow Warblers. She is looking forward to being included in an upcoming collaborative publication studying Yellow Warbler response to antiparasitic referential alarm calls. In Spring of 2020, Caroline received the Undergraduate Award for Research and Creative Scholarship Excellence under the mentorship of Dr. Kathryn Docherty for research on the impact of cellulose and biomass addition on root growth and mycorrhizal fungi associations. From fall 2018 through graduation in fall of 2020, Caroline worked as a course assistant in the Bronco Study Zone helping students to succeed in a wide variety of difficult classes.

College of Arts and Sciences

Christopher T Clark

Presidential Scholar in Chemistry

Christopher is from Holland, Michigan and a graduate of Black River Public School and also attended Grand Rapids Community College. At WMU, he is majoring in chemistry, with a focus in life sciences, minoring in mathematics, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Christopher is currently studying the chemical reactions of a nicotine degrading enzyme called NicA2 with the goal of fully characterizing and improving the enzyme. He has been studying this enzyme under Fredrick Stull for 15 months and published his first research paper “A Cytochrome C is the Natural Electron Acceptor for Nicotine Oxidoreductase” in the journal *Nature Chemical Biology*. Christopher has received several honors and scholarships; WMU Dean’s List (2020); Marc Perkovic Memorial Scholarship (2020); Boyce Maile Scholarship (2020); and the Undergraduate Research Creativity Award (2019, 2020). In 2018, he participated in a China study abroad from the Chemical Engineering department at Sichuan University. Christopher held the position of Publicity Director in the WMU RSO American Institute for Chemical Engineers where he completed multiple volunteer and extra-curricular activities including clean up of a highway ramp, helping at a food drive, and tutoring his classmates. The accomplishment that Christopher is most proud of is being the first undergraduate teaching assistant to be an instructor of the Introduction to Biochemistry lab in over 20 years. Biochemistry is his passion, and he enjoyed the opportunity to teach students the subject.

College of Arts and Sciences

Dawn L Glennie

Presidential Scholar in Communication

Dawn is from South Haven, Michigan and a graduate of L. C. Mohr High School, and also attended Lake Michigan College and Hope College. At WMU, she is majoring in communications and minoring in psychology, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate *summa cum laude* in June 2021. Currently, she is planning on taking the Law School Admission Test and applying to Cooley Law School. Her passion is poverty law, as well as for how we can use the law in areas of government to help people. After graduation, Dawn plans to work part-time at a Kalamazoo based attorney's office. As a communication major, she also has a strong interest in the power of words and the effect of intrapersonal communication on people's career, relationships, and health. Currently, she is enjoying an internship with the office of Senator Kim LaSata, doing both legislative research and constituent communications. She is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta and Phi Kappa Phi Honors Societies. Dawn volunteers at Legal Aid of Western Michigan.

College of Arts and Sciences

Brittany D St. Germain

Presidential Scholar in Comparative Religion

Brittany is from Glenview, Michigan and is a graduate of Lake Central High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in comparative religion and psychology and expects to graduate in May 2021. After graduation, she plans to continue her academic career at Adler University in the clinical psychology doctoral program. Brittany hopes to create a private practice with a core base of inclusivity and respect, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation. She has done her best to soak up as much knowledge as possible while at WMU with the result of being on the College of Arts and Sciences dean's list since fall 2016. In 2018, she completed her practicum at Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency working in applied behavioral psychology. During that time, Brittany has been given acceptance into both Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Society and Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity where she volunteered at events such as Bronco Bash, community cleanups, and the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre which sparked a greater respect for learning from those around her and a strong desire to help others.

College of Arts and Sciences

Tyler J Boes

Presidential Scholar in Economics



Tyler is from Kalamazoo, Michigan and a graduate of Kalamazoo Christian High School. At WMU, he is double majoring in economics and applied mathematics, minoring in general business and actuarial science, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. After graduation he intends to look for a job in data analysis or actuarial work, while also preparing for the financial mathematics actuarial exam and the probability actuarial exam. Eventually, he hopes to pursue a masters degree in economics, mathematics, or statistics. Tyler is currently working on his honors thesis, with a topic regarding stationarity testing of Major League Baseball run generation models. In fact, the movie that got him interested in studying economics was “Moneyball”, which is about baseball statistics. Tyler has been a part of the mathematics honors society, Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Lambda Delta. During his time at WMU, he was sure to make his learning experience beyond the classroom. Tyler was a part of several student organizations and held leadership positions such as treasurer, secretary, and vice president for Refugee Outreach Collective, the Club Tennis Team, and Students for a Sustainable Earth. In addition, he has been a part of the WMU chapter of Youth Democratic Socialists and served as an intern for Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War, an anti-war advocacy group.

College of Arts and Sciences

Abigail S Cowan

Presidential Scholar in English



Abigail is from Mattawan, Michigan and a graduate of Mattawan High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in English literature and creative writing, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in December 2021. She began her journey at WMU as a biomedical science major, and the decision to reorientate to majoring in English literature and creative writing created an ambiguous and intimidating future than the route to medical school. However, the switch opened a new world of opportunity to divulge in her true gifts. In fall 2018, she received the Bronco Merit Scholarship. She has been on the dean's list and become a member of Alpha Lambda Delta. In 2020, She published in *The Laureate*, which provides undergraduate students at WMU a place to publish fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and other creative works. Abigail was recognized as a Gwen Frostic Creative Writing Awards poetry finalist. In her free time, she assists in leading a weekly community group with Campus Crusade for Christ to create a safe place for first year students of all backgrounds to discuss their spiritual and college lives. Additionally, in 2020 Abigail performed with Collegiate Singers and Anima. She enjoys writing poetry and short stories, often focusing on bringing light to women's issues, with the hopes of someday publishing a collection of works.

College of Arts and Sciences

Chelsea E Spaman

Presidential Scholar in Environment and Sustainability



Chelsea is from Northville, Michigan and a graduate of Northville High School and also attended Schoolcraft College. At WMU, she is double majoring in behavioral science and environmental studies/sustainability, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Her passion for environmental studies dictated that she join the Institute of Environment and Sustainability at WMU; this addition shifted her coursework. During 2019, she had the opportunity to combine two primary interests for a research project while in a psychology class. The project garnered interest from the Recycling and Sustainability Program Manager at WMU, who offered Chelsea and her project partner jobs on a recycling team. Around that time, Chelsea started on her honors thesis; however, the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the feasibility of the original plan of study focused on the effects of visual prompts on single-use coffee cup consumption. She changed gears and developed a survey-based research project that explored how the use of Fahrenheit and Celsius temperature scales affect climate change concern “Temperature Influence on Perceptions of Climate Risk.” Chelsea also holds the position of Vice-President for Sustainability in the Western Student Association where she focuses on multiple projects. Chelsea also helped plan the 2021 Student Sustainability Summit and held a position on the WMU Carbon Neutrality Committee.

College of Arts and Sciences

Hannah E Powless

Presidential Scholar in Gender and Women's Studies



Hannah is from Paw Paw, Michigan and a graduate of Paw Paw High School. At WMU, he is double majoring in gender and women's studies and communication, and expects to graduate *summa cum laude* in May 2021. Following graduation, he plans to enter the non-profit sector to pursue a career working with youth in marginalized communities. Hannah's research interests include LGBTQ+ youth identity formation and community as well as LGBTQ+ themes in children's novels. This spring, he will be defending his honors thesis on LGBTQ+ Identities in Children's Literature. While completing his undergraduate degree, Hannah had the opportunity to present alongside Dr. Susan Freeman to faculty and instructors on the topic of creating inclusive classrooms for transgender students. He is a member of both the Communication Studies honor society, Lambda Pi Eta, and the Gender and Women's Studies honor society, Iota Iota Iota (Triota). Additionally, he has served on the WMU Academic Integrity Committee. Outside of his studies, Hannah is a passionate summer camp staff member at Van Buren Youth Camp in Southwest Michigan, where he has served the last two years on lead staff as the Head Counselor, training and leading the volunteer high school counselor program.

College of Arts and Sciences

Shealyn R Lach

Presidential Scholar in Geography



Shealyn is from South Lyon, Michigan, and a graduate of South Lyon High School, she attended Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft Community College. At WMU, she is double majoring in geography with a concentration in urban planning and political sciences with a concentration in public policy. Shealyn is a member of the Lee Honors College, a Medallion Scholar, has been on the dean's list every semester, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans to serve as an AmeriCorp volunteer for a year, prior to attending graduate school to obtain her master's degree in urban planning. Shealyn is most interested in transportation and community planning which she learned a great deal about while studying abroad in Sydney, Australia as well as during her internship for the WMU's Capital Internship Program at City of Kalamazoo's Office of Community and Economic Planning. Currently, she is developing a transportation study on the Vine Neighborhood in Kalamazoo for her honors thesis research. Shealyn is a member of the WMU Refugee Outreach Collective and Students for Sustainable Earth, two activism-centered student organizations which strengthened her relationship with the Kalamazoo Community. She hopes to keep these personal connections she has made during college no matter where the future takes her.

College of Arts and Sciences

Cheryl J White

Presidential Scholar in Global and International Studies



Cheryl is from Kalamazoo, Michigan and a graduate of ESHTTC in Beijing, China, and also attended Taras Schevchenko National University, Free University of Berlin, and George Mason University. At WMU, she is majoring in global and international studies focusing on States and governance and minoring in international business, modern European studies, and German study abroad. She is a member of the Lee Honors College and graduated in December 2020. Cheryl is seeking to work in international relations with a focus on sustainable development and hopes to attend a masters program to continue research in international policy and sustainable development. She completed her honors thesis on soft power and human development in Central Asia and would like to continue researching how international trade and infrastructure development can be directed and regulated to improve the quality of life and economic growth for locals in host nations. Cheryl published news articles in the *Green Sports Blog*. She was on the dean's list and received the Fund for American Studies Award for Outstanding Participation. Cheryl completed a one-year exchange program and studied extensively in China and the Ukraine, and she works as a language teacher for students from multiple countries teaching Mandarin and English. Cheryl volunteered with the Berliner Tafel, a food bank in Berlin that fights food waste and worked as a community organizer with Clean Water Action in Michigan.

College of Arts and Sciences

Daniel S Yates

Presidential Scholar in History



Daniel is from Battle Creek, Michigan and a graduate of St. Phillip Catholic Central High School. He earned an associate's degree in political science from Kellogg Community College. At WMU, he is majoring in history, minoring in Chinese, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Upon graduation, he plans to attend law school and practice in the realm of corporate law with a special focus on Chinese law. Daniel has taken special interest in matters concerning the history of East Asia as well as the evolution of the Chinese American experience, exploring early Japanese Feminism as well as the evolution of Chinese American cuisine. He completed several internships, most notably at the state and local government levels. Daniel was awarded the Social Science Student of the Year Award for 2017 while a student at Kellogg Community College, the 2019 Excellence in Chinese Award, and the 2020 Margaret McMillan Undergraduate Writing Award. In 2019, he participated in a faculty-led study abroad program in Beijing, China and has held a cumulative 4.0 GPA in addition to assisting Dr. Xiaojun Wang in editing several of his works. Daniel has been President of the Chinese Language and Culture Club, a member of the Pre-Law Society, serving as Vice-President of the Native American Student Organization, a member of the Chinese Association of Greater Kalamazoo, and the Chinese Association of West Michigan. He enjoys international travel, particularly to Asia and the Middle East.

College of Arts and Sciences

Hana G Holmgren

Presidential Scholar in Intercultural and Anthropological Studies

Hana is from Kalamazoo, Michigan and a graduate of Mattawan High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in anthropology and creative writing, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in August 2021. A class in her freshman year titled Art of The Book sparked an interest in the anthropological and artistic implications of the book as a cultural and historical keystone and brought about many opportunities. Hana participated in study abroad in Italy working in traditional printing studios, a studio internship at the Kalamazoo Book Arts center, and a book project combining poetry and traditional letterpress and bookbinding which was funded by a New Leaders grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Hana's honors thesis project, "*Mythos*," is a book of her own poetry set by hand in lead type including linoleum intaglio prints. She has been honored in her time at WMU to be a part of the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi honors societies, received a Gwen Frostic Undergraduate Award in Fiction, and an honorable mention in poetry. Hana is a member of Cantus Femina, the WMU women's choir and the Concert Band. She has always striven to keep her life filled with music and the people passionate about creating it. Going forward, she plans to continue her education and delve deeper into the intersection of cultural exploration and writing.

College of Arts and Sciences

Clare M Bunton

Presidential Scholar in Mathematics



Clare is from Livonia, Michigan and a graduate of Stevenson High School. At WMU, she is majoring in mathematics with a concentration in secondary education and expects to graduate in December 2021. Following graduation, Clare plans to become a high school math and physics teacher. Eventually, she would like to pursue a doctorate in an education-related field that would allow her to become a college professor in teacher preparation. Through the knowledge gained in her education courses and the inspiration she gained from her education professors, she is currently working on a WMU Signature Project which focuses on Diversity and Inclusion. Clare has served as a Student Ambassador through the Office of Admissions and as a learning assistant for a MATH 1230 course with Dr. Jon Davis. Previously, Clare served as a First Year Experience Co-Facilitator and a Fall Welcome Ambassador through the Office of Student Transitions. Additionally, she currently serves as the president of Western Student Education Association, is an active member of Pi Mu Epsilon, and served as a College of Education and Human Development Representative through the Western Student Association. Clare also participated in a study abroad program “Education in Ireland” that explored education, social justice, and sustainability in Ireland. Through all of her in-class experiences, organizations, jobs, and internships she has been able to develop as a person, student, leader, future educator, and a mathematics enthusiast.

College of Arts and Sciences

Miguel D Villegas

Presidential Scholar in Philosophy

Miguel is from Walled Lake, Michigan and a graduate of Walled Lake Central High School. At WMU, he double majored in psychology with a concentration in behavior analysis and philosophy with a concentration in applied ethics and graduated in December 2020.

College of Arts and Sciences

Ireland A Armintrout

Presidential Scholar in Physics

Ireland is from Allegan, Michigan and a graduate of Allegan High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in physics and mathematics and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans on getting certified to teach physics and mathematics at the high school level. Ireland's academic interests include the mathematical patterns that appear in the natural universe. She has worked as a learning assistant for various physics courses. Apart from her education, she has helped with directing adult and youth handbell choirs for the Allegan United Methodist Church.

College of Arts and Sciences

Ava J Strasser

Presidential Scholar in Political Science



Ava is from Lapeer, Michigan and a graduate of Lapeer High School. She attended the School for International Training, is a Medallion Scholar, a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. At WMU, she is double majoring in political science with a concentration in international and comparative politics and gender and women's studies. She plans to go on to complete graduate school and then have a career working for international and civil society organizations. Ava's research interest lies in the field of women, peace, and security. During her studying abroad, she published her research entitled "The Inclusion of Displaced Women in the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda" in the *Independent Study Project Collection*. Ava is currently finalizing this research for submission for potential publication along with Dr. Lauren Foley, her thesis chair. She has been awarded the Mark Denenfeld Memorial Endowed Scholarship, the Arden J. Elsasser Memorial Award, the Jennifer C. Wenger Memorial Study/Work Abroad Fund, and the International Study Scholarship. In 2019, she participated the Global Leaders Program, WMU's first student-led leadership development program with a foreign-service component. She has been a member of Alpha Xi Delta, was the former Vice President of the Refugee Outreach Collective, and was Student-Body Vice President for Political Affairs for the Western Student Association.

College of Arts and Sciences

Sadie G Martin

Presidential Scholar in Psychology



Sadie is from Vicksburg, Michigan and a graduate of Vicksburg High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in psychology with a concentration in behavioral science and Spanish, she is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. After graduating, she plans on completing a master's degree in industrial/organizational behavior management. Under the supervision of Dr. Heather McGee, Sadie has worked on her thesis research to conduct a literary analysis examining the effects of virtual feedback and goal setting on employee performance. Additionally, she has worked at WMU's Kalamazoo Autism Center providing applied behavior analytic services for individuals on the Autism spectrum. As a LeadCorp intern with WMU's Office of Student Engagement, she had the opportunity to plan and facilitate two of WMU's Fall Leadership Retreats as well as attend weekly meetings designed to develop and promote leadership and communication skills. Sadie serves as the President of Psi Chi, the International Honors Society, is a member of the Society for Excellence in Human Resources at WMU, the Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Alpha Lambda Delta. She received the Alpha Lambda Delta National Jo Anne Trow Scholarship, the National Stemler Study Abroad Scholarship, and the WMU Department of Spanish's Carolyn Harris Award and Ruth Y. Kirby Scholarship Award.

College of Arts and Sciences

Megan C Emery

Presidential Scholar in Sociology



Megan is from Pinckney, Michigan and a graduate of Pinckney Community High School and also attended Wayne State University. At WMU, she is double majoring in criminal justice and psychology, has been on the College of Arts and Sciences dean's list since 2018, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she will stay in Kalamazoo to continue to work at the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program (KPEP) as a resident coordinator. In fall of 2022, she plans to further her education by attending law school or graduate school. Megan is interested in criminal justice and would like to become a criminal defense attorney or a probation/parole officer. During 2020, she interned for a law firm which focused on family law. She learned so much there and got to see first-hand what an attorney's daily duties include. Megan is a member of the Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA). Earning a cumulative 4.0 GPA has been a huge accomplishment for her during her time at WMU.

College of Arts and Sciences

Lindsay N Warriner

Presidential Scholar in Spanish

Lindsay is from Bridgman, Michigan and a graduate of Bridgman High School. At WMU, she is majoring in Spanish and minoring in integrated holistic health and wellness and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans to obtain a master's of counseling so that she can support families in disadvantaged communities. She hopes to go abroad one day taking the skills she obtained at WMU to counsel peoples all over the world. Lindsay spent a semester studying abroad in Costa Rica, which was an amazing experience that left her feeling independent, confident, and appreciative of other cultures. She has also had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer at the Washington Writer's Academy, with the FIRE Place program, and was honored with the Joan Coromines Award. Throughout Lindsay's undergraduate academic career, she has always felt supported by every single member of the WMU community and will forever be grateful for attending a university that cares deeply for its students.

College of Arts and Sciences

Austin S Brubaker

Presidential Scholar in Statistics



Austin is from Portage, Michigan, is a graduate of Portage Central High School, and attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College. At WMU, he is majoring in statistics, has been on the dean's list, and expects to graduate in May 2021. He is grateful for the privilege of growing up with parents dedicated to his development in education. He received a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship prior to attending WMU, which has significantly limited the financial burdens on his family. He has developed skills and made connections with people that will provide opportunities for him to use statistics to help people understand the world better. Austin unintentionally learned to love statistics through baseball, specifically the Detroit Tigers which he memorized and analyzed individual's statistics. He has been able to apply this passion as he studied multiple aspects of the Great Lakes Loons and Minor League Baseball. Following graduation, he will potentially pursue graduate school for statistics to gain knowledge of more advanced data analysis. Austin has volunteered through Connections Community Church and been gifted the opportunity to play the keytar every Sunday at church with his dad, which he states has been the greatest blessing he have been given.

College of Arts and Sciences

Craig A Doig

Presidential Scholar in World Languages and Literatures



Craig is from Rochester Hills, Michigan and a graduate of Rochester Adams High School. At WMU, he is double majoring in German and economics and expects to graduate in June 2021. Following graduation, he plans to gain work experience as a financial analyst before returning to graduate school. Craig aspires to complete a masters of economics program in Germany to enhance his career prospects as an analyst and improve his cultural knowledge of the German language. He would ultimately like to work in the field of renewable energy and is interested in international economic policy and environmental economics. Craig completed two internships, one at Rock Ventures, LLC and the other at Baker Tilly, LLP. Craig has been awarded the President's Grant for Study Abroad, Haenicke Institute for Global Education Scholarship, and Hermann E. Rothfuss Award for Excellence in German. In 2018, he studied abroad in Bonn, Germany where he was enrolled in intensive German language courses and an economy of Germany course. He has served as the Vice President of Finance for Delta Sigma Pi.

College of Business, Haworth

Olivia M Langdon

Presidential Scholar in Accountancy

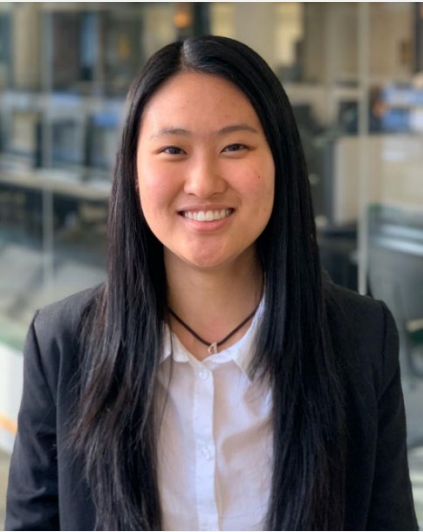


Olivia is from St. Johns, Michigan, a graduate of St Johns High School, and attended Lansing Community College. At WMU, she is majoring in accountancy and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she will be pursuing a masters of science in accountancy at WMU and will sit for the Certified Public Accountant exam. She has secured a position at Ernst & Young (EY) in the assurance service line. Olivia completed two internships, one with Kellogg's as a supply chain finance intern, and one with EY as an assurance intern. She also completed a co-op with Eaton Corporation in financial planning. In addition, Olivia worked with Dr. James Penner as a research assistant. She has earned the Fleck Business scholarship, the Werner scholarship, the Fred and Michelle Minturn Accountancy scholarship, and the Dean's Silver Star scholarship. She served as president and held membership in the Accounting Club as well as being a member of Beta Alpha Psi. Olivia has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a volunteer organization to support free tax preparation services, and Poured Out where she was able to travel to Haiti to install water filtration systems.

College of Business, Haworth

Jessica G Harsono

Presidential Scholar in Business Information Systems



Jessica is from East Java, Indonesia and a graduate of Intan Permata Hati and also attended Jakarta International College. At WMU, she is majored in business analytics, was on the dean's list, maintained a cumulative 4.0 GPA, and graduated in December 2020. A desire to improve her skills and knowledge as well as being able to learn new things to be able to solve the toughest challenges has inspired Jessica. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a career as a business analyst and is considering pursuing a masters degree in business analytics. She is currently waiting for Optional Practical Training (OPT), a work authorization for F-1 visa international students. Jessica's passion is to use her programming and other skills to help companies understand customers' behavior and future insights. Her dream is to create and manage companies around the world that are going to help people and make a positive impact for the world. She was a recipient of the Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship, a merit-based scholarship for international students, and the Dr. Bernadine P. Branchaw Scholarship. In 2020, Jessica won second place in the Project Management Competition hosted by PMI. She is a member of Indonesian Students Association and organized a fashion show and dance performance for the International Festival in 2019. She has volunteered with a church in Indonesia to lead over a hundred people in the community.

College of Business, Haworth

John M Bare

Presidential Scholar in Finance and Commercial Law



John is from Portage, Michigan and a graduate of Portage Central High School. At WMU, he is majoring in finance, is a member of the Lee Honors College, maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA, was on the dean's list, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, he intends to study for the Chartered Financial Analyst Program examinations and pursue a career in investment management and research analysis. Eventually, he aims to pursue a masters of business administration. John participated in the student managed investment fund, where he and fellow students managed a \$2.5 million U.S. equities portfolio on behalf of the WMU Foundation Endowment Fund. He received a Bloomberg Market Concepts Certification, is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Lambda Delta honors societies, received the Eva C. and Joseph C. Wurzer Memorial Scholarship, the Haworth College of Business Dean's Gold Star Scholarship, the Thomas J. Sullivan Scholarship, and the WMU Alumni Legacy Award. He has served as both secretary and vice president of the Financial Services Club, a registered student organization in the Haworth College of Business. John has volunteered coaching youth soccer with the Portage Soccer Club where he made a positive impact on children's lives by helping them improve their soccer abilities as well as develop stronger leadership and teamwork skills.

College of Business, Haworth

Darrin M Hobson

Presidential Scholar in Integrated Supply Management

Darrin is from Portage, Michigan and a graduate of Imlay City Community High School and earned a A.A.S in Electronics Technology from Kalamazoo Valley Community College in 1994. At WMU, he majored in integrated supply management and graduated in December 2020. As a non-traditional student, he completed his degree while working full-time as a Facilities and Project Manager at TRMI, Inc. which is an automotive supplier that manufactures interior automotive switches. Darrin is seeking a new career in Air Freight Management and considering Supply Chain Management certification options. He is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and participated in various company sponsored community service events.



College of Business, Haworth

Sarah M Reynolds

Presidential Scholar in Management



Sarah is from Delton, Michigan, a graduate of Delton-Kellogg High School, and also attended Kellogg Community College. At WMU, she majored in human resource management, was on the dean's list, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to further her studies. Sarah is a recipient of the SHRM Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship, KHRMA Mentorship Program Scholarship, and Barber-Forcier Scholarship. She is currently employed as a Talent Agent with WSI, a staffing and recruiting agency and she worked as a Human Resources Intern with Sherwin-Williams. She serves as the Vice President of Professional Events for the Society for Excellence in Human Resources (SEHR) where she organizes events with speakers from various companies, workshops in HR related topics, and student development opportunities. Additionally, Sarah is a mentor for the SEHR Mentorship Program and was part of the 2019-20 Social Events Committee. She earned first place in the 2020 SEHR Games, a Jeopardy-style team competition to test students' knowledge.

College of Business, Haworth

Nicholas A Hammond

Presidential Scholar in Marketing



Nicholas is from Woodhaven, Michigan and a graduate of Gabriel Richard Catholic High School. At WMU, he is double majoring in sales and business marketing and leadership and business strategy and expects to graduate in May 2021. Through the Sales Program, he has had the opportunity to study Global Negotiation at the Universität Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany. Nicholas has completed internships at Quicken Loans as a National Sales Intern on the Relocation Team, Samvardhana Motherson Innovations as a Business Development Intern, E. & J. Gallo Winery as a Sales Leadership Development Intern, and at Perrgio as a Pharmaceutical Sales & Marketing Intern. Following graduation, he will be joining the E. & J. Gallo Winery in the Sales Leadership Development Program. In 2019, Nicholas was proud to have been crowned Homecoming King and named as a finalist for Student Leader of the Year in 2020. He is a member of the Sales and Business Marketing Association (SBMA), served on the Executive Board, was an Executive Committee Member, Director of Alumni Relations, Director of Professional Development, Director of Mentorship, and Senior Advisor. Nicholas is an brother in the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) and has served as Public Relations Chair, Professional Development Chair, and Mental Health Chair.

College of Education and Human Development

Michele L Jimenez

Presidential Scholar in Family and Consumer Sciences



Michele is from Portage, Michigan, a graduate of Dover High School, and earned an associates degree from the University of Akron. At WMU, she is majoring in family studies, is on the dean's list, maintains a 4.0 GPA, and expects to graduate in August 2021. She plans to go on to earn a masters of vision rehabilitation therapy, and work at a training center for the blind teaching braille and independent living skills. Michele also plans to be certified as a Family Life Educator (CFLE) following completion of her undergraduate degree. She anticipates completing an internship at Disability Network, which is a center for independent living for persons with disabilities over the summer. Michele is a member of the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, the Student Chapter of Michigan Association of Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER), and serves as the MAER treasurer and Secretary. She has volunteered at the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center, the Blind and Socially Savvy program, and has mentored in the Michigan Parents of the Visually Impaired (MPVI) where she worked with parents and blind or visually impaired children.

College of Education and Human Development

Jenna L Noyes

Presidential Scholar in Special Education and Literacy Studies



Jenna is from Romeoville, Illinois and a graduate of Plainfield East High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in special education and elementary education with concentrations in learning disabilities and emotional impairments, is on the dean's list, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans to start her teaching career in an elementary school resource room. Jenna also plans to pursue a masters degree in special education administration. She would like to obtain a position of district special education director. Jenna completed one internship at Amberly Elementary and is currently completing an internship at Parchment Central. Jenna received the Lofton and Georgiann Burge Scholarship. She enjoys working with elementary students, especially in literacy development and reading. Jenna served as the secretary of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for education majors, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Best Buddies. In 2019 and 2020, she volunteered for Night to Shine, a prom for individuals with disabilities, hosted by Southridge Church, with hopes of continued participation for years to come. Also in 2019, she volunteered at a special needs hockey tournament at WMU's Lawson Arena which allowed her to watch and interact with the athletes. Jenna has also been employed during her academic career at the WMU Athletic Ticket Office.

College of Education and Human Development

Sarah Giramia

Presidential Scholar in Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies



Sarah is from Kampala, Uganda and a graduate of Loy Norrix High School. At WMU, she majored in secondary English education, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and graduated in December 2020. She and her family immigrated from Uganda in 2005. Her parents pushing their children to pursue education and little did they know that coming to Kalamazoo during the development and implementation of the Kalamazoo Promise would provide the opportunity to apply those insights. Sarah was awarded the MLK Gold Scholarship in high school and became a member of the MLK Academy. She also received the Future Educators Program Scholarship, the Student Development Institute All-Star Award, is a student ambassador for the admissions office, and the Ellen Brinkley Award for Promising Teachers. She is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Fraternity, a founding member of Future Teachers of Color, a registered student organization aimed at providing support and increasing the number of teachers of color in the education field. This became the topic for her honors thesis “Future Teachers of Color: A Documentary”. Sarah acknowledges her parents and their drive for knowledge and credits them with planting the seeds that have allowed her to continue to grow far beyond the boundaries and limitations of being an immigrant Black woman.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Omar K Aly

Presidential Scholar in Chemical and Paper Engineering

Omar is from Alexandria, Egypt, a graduate of Sidi Gaber Language School, and attended the American University in Cairo. At WMU, he is majoring in chemical engineering with a concentration in energy management and expects to graduate in May 2021.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Megan N Scherpereel

Presidential Scholar in Civil and Construction Engineering



Megan is from South Bend, Indiana and a graduate of Washington High School. At WMU, she majored in civil engineering with a concentration in structural engineering, was a member of the Lee Honors College, and graduated in December 2020. Following graduation, she will be working at Black & Veatch as a part of the EDGE rotational program. She also plans to pursue a Professional Engineering License. Megan completed four internships at Berrien County Road Commission, Miller-Davis, and Black & Veatch. She partnered with Habitat for Humanity for her senior design capstone project and honors thesis which focused on quickly enclosing houses using prefabrication roof and wall sections, as well as reducing waste and cost for home building titled “Housing Pre-Fabrication and Resource Optimization.” The project is unique by teaming students from civil and construction engineering and engineering design, manufacturing, and management systems. Megan was awarded the Dean’s Award for the Outstanding Student Achievement in Civil Engineering, the Monroe Brown Scholarship through the Miller-Davis Company, The Southwestern Michigan Branch of ASCE Scholarship, and the Legacy Scholarship. She is a member of Steel Bridge Team, ASCE, and president of Chi Epsilon. During her academic career, Megan was also employed at the WMU Alumni Center as a Training Manager and volunteered with Best Friends Animal Society.



College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Harsh Sinha

Presidential Scholar in Computer Science



Harsh is from Grand Rapids, Michigan and a graduate of Forest Hills Eastern High School. At WMU, he is double majoring in computer science and applied mathematics, is on the dean's list, maintained a 4.0 GPA, and expects to graduate in December 2021. Following graduation, he hopes to gain employment as a software engineer before obtaining a masters in computer science. He is interested in the fields of computer vision, robotics, and machine learning to work on technologies that improves lives. Harsh worked with Dr. Wuwei Shen as a research assistant and was employed as a software engineering intern with Stryker, a position for which he was recruited in his senior year of high school. Harsh is currently pursuing a senior engineering project in the field of Surface Reconstruction, a project sponsored by Stryker. He has coauthored a research paper that was published in the *European Conference on Cyber Warfare 18th European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security*. Harsh received the Computer Science Department scholarship, the Dematic FIRST scholarship, and a member of the honors society Phi Kappa Phi. He also volunteers with FIRST Robotics Competition team by teaching high school students how to code and use mathematics to develop control algorithms.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Yonatan M Beyene

Presidential Scholar in Electrical and Computer Engineering



Yonatan is from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and a graduate of Lideta Catholic Cathedral High School. At WMU, he is majoring in electrical engineering and minoring in computer science and mathematics, is a member of Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, he plans to attend graduate school for electrical engineering with a specialization in signal processing. Yonatan's senior design project is in the field of electrocardiography, where he is co-designing a flexible wireless electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring device that records electrical signals from the heart and display them as an ECG graph on a smartphone. He is also a research assistant at the Western Aerospace Launch Initiative, which is dedicated to building a small satellite that will be launched into a low Earth orbit. Yonatan has received the Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship, ECE Differential Tuition Scholarship, and a WMU mathematics competition award winner in 2018 and 2019. He is a learning assistant where he tutors and mentors students to help them improve their academic performance. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering honor society where he serves as a treasurer, Pi Kappa Phi honor society, Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, the National Society of Black Engineers, and Bronco African Student Association.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Kayli M Holmes

Presidential Scholar in Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems



Kayli is from Fremont, Michigan, a graduate of Fremont High School, and also attended Muskegon Community College and Ferris State University. At WMU, she is majoring in engineering design technology, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. She has completed internships at Anderson Global, Fleetwood Furniture, and Haworth, which have provided experience in metal casting and furniture industries. Kayli served as secretary of the WMU Society of Engineers Without Borders, as a teaching assistant for “Intro to Computer-Aided Design” class, and is currently working as an engineering intern at Haworth. She has created drawings for a design of water filtration project for an international project in Nicaragua. Kayli is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Tau Alpha Pi, and has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Leda L Flory

Presidential Scholar in Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management



Leda is from Commerce Township, Michigan and a graduate of Walled Lake Northern. At WMU, she is majoring in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering, minoring in mathematics, food service operations, and sustainability, is on the dean's list, and expects to graduate in December 2021. Apart from her major, Leda has a passion for health sciences, nutrition, and sustainability. She plans to work in the food industry as a process engineer or project manager to increase accessibility to whole and organic foods. Leda's research-based senior design project is on sand casting in the Foundry industry with a goal to understand how the grain distribution affects the as-cast surface quality of casting components by taking samples, conducting trials, and analyzing research journals. The data will be used to create a neural network that will give a better prediction of as-cast quality in industry. She was an Engineering Supply Chain Intern at Pepsi Co. and Galileo-Insights an information technology development company. She received the Industrial Entrepreneurial Engineering EM Retention Scholarship. Leda is a member of Alpha Pi Mu, the Industrial Engineering Honor Society and Tau Beta Pi, the oldest Engineering Honor Society.

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Hannah G Sargent

Presidential Scholar in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Hannah is from Lewis Center, Ohio and a graduate of Olentangy Orange High School. At WMU, she is majoring in aerospace engineering, is a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Hannah is also currently enrolled in the accelerated masters degree program for aerospace engineering. She is working on her honors thesis “Design of a Full-Scale Plant for Plastic Pyrolysis” and will defend it in spring 2021. Following graduation, she would like to secure a position at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Hannah is currently working in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department. She is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Society and volunteers with Bethany Christian Services, Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, and the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Along with academic interests, she is an active student athlete as a member of the Columbus Eagles, a semi-pro women’s soccer team in central Ohio and the WMU Women’s Varsity Soccer Team. During the 2018 season, she earned honors including the Mid-American Conference All-Freshman Team, College Sports Information Directors of American First Team Academic All-District, Academic All-MAC Team, and MAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete. Additionally, Hannah is one of two representatives on the WMU Diversity Task Force where teams work to bring awareness to social justice issues.

College of Fine Arts

Kimberly S Barrett Presidential Scholar in Art



Kimberly is from Kalamazoo, Michigan, a graduate of Schoolcraft High School, and also attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College. At WMU, she is majoring in art education with a concentration in ceramics and printmaking and expects to graduate *summa cum laude* in May 2021. Kimberly has been awarded the Ruth G. Wintermyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Art Education, the Elizabeth M. Smutz Award for Art Education Excellence, the DeVries Professional Immersion Fund Scholarship, the Robert and Eleanor DeVries Annual Student Exhibition Award, the Haig and Janette Tashjian Art Teaching Scholarship, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation Earl Haas Memorial Scholarship, the Foundation Art Star Award, the Walter Enz Memorial Award, the Carmer Art Scholarship, and the Frostic School of Art Student Enrichment Grant for professional development. She has exhibited her artwork at the Annual Student Exhibition, the Art in the Legislature, Western Michigan University's Printmedia Steamroller Exhibition, the Kalamazoo Art Hop, the Rose Gold Coffee & the Greater Arts Council of Kalamazoo, and the Printmedia Spring Show. Kimberly is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the National Art Education Association/Michigan Art Education Association, the Greater Arts Council of Kalamazoo, the Tau Sigma Honors Society, the Western Michigan University Ceramics Guild, the Association of Academic Museums & Galleries, and the SGC International Printmakers Association.

College of Fine Arts

Kyra M Laster

Presidential Scholar in Dance



Kyra is from Olympia Fields, Illinois and a graduate of Marian Catholic High School. At WMU, she is double majoring in dance and marketing and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a masters in dance with a long-term goal of returning to academia as a professor of dance. Her thesis is a choreographed work that will be presented as part of the Bachelor of Fine Arts dance Graduating Presentations concert. It will explore how grief can affect people differently and share her personal experience of losing her grandmother and will be a continuation of her personal creative aesthetic of exploring and sharing real life experiences through movement. Kyra has participated in numerous department of dance concerts where she performed works choreographed by faculty, peers, and by guest artist, BAIRA. She received the Dalton Exceptional Dance Major Scholarship and the Partners in Dance Scholarship. Kyra has served as Artistic Director of WMU RSO, Hip Hop ConnXion. Additionally, she is currently a Marketing Intern for Detroit Dance City Festival and has participated in the Haworth College of Business Externship program. She is a member of the WMU Academic Integrity Committee and Alpha Lambda Delta honors society.

College of Fine Arts

Alyssa R Zamora

Presidential Scholar in Music Theatre Performance

Alyssa is from Brighton, Michigan and a graduate of Brighton High School. At WMU, she is majoring in music theatre performance with a concentration in direction and minoring in family sciences, a member of the Lee Honors College, recipient of the Foundation Scholarship which is a full four-year merit-based scholarship for students who have demonstrated immense resilience, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she will be attending the Radiant School of Ministry. She plans to create an immersive theatre piece combining her love for the outdoors with theatre by hiking up a mountain to experience scenes along the way and complete the story at the top. Her honors thesis will be a virtual showcase with her class performing songs and monologues that they have prepared for the theatre industry. Alyssa is a Zack L. York Scholar, and a two time Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholar sponsored by the Walt Disney Company and by NBC Universal. In 2019, she traveled to England where she studied Shakespeare and physical theatre. Alyssa has worked as a Teacher's Assistant at WMU and is most proud of teaching artist with Education for the Arts and teaching at elementary schools throughout the Kalamazoo. She serves as the Vice President of the Department of Theatre's Student Advisory Board. Alyssa volunteers at Radiant Church, Friendship Village, and King-Westwood Elementary School.



College of Fine Arts

Benjamin J Marshall

Presidential Scholar in Theatre



Ben is from Arlington Heights, Illinois and a graduate of Prospect High School. At WMU, he is majoring in theatre and expects to graduate in May 2021. He has auditioned for various graduate programs to eventually obtain a masters in acting. Ben plans to relocate to New York City where he can begin his professional career. He has had the opportunity to perform at various regional theaters and summer stocks including Thunder Bay Theater, Timber Lake Playhouse, and Clinton Area Showboat. Ben was contracted to perform in Farmers Alley Theatre's summer season of *Bright Star* and *High Fidelity*, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic was canceled. Ben performed in various WMU mainstage productions including *Fish In the Dark* (Stewie), *Shakespeare in Love* (Henslowe), *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely Johnson), *Amadeus* (Van Swieten), *Restoration Comedy* (Various), and was cast in *Something Rotten* (Nick Bottom), which also was unfortunately cancelled.

College of Health and Human Services

Camryn R Giem

Presidential Scholar in Interdisciplinary Health Programs



Camryn is from Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a graduate of Forest Hills Northern High School, and also earned an associates degree from Grand Rapids Community College. At WMU, she is majoring in public health with a concentration in health education, is on the dean's list, and expects to graduate in June 2021. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a masters degree in epidemiology and pursue a doctorate in order to become a university professor. Camryn's capstone project is focused on developing an intervention to improve the health of WMU's LGBTQ+ student population. As a part of the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) Annual Advocacy Summit, she and three other WMU students presented to members of congress about the necessity of funding climate change interventions and the CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program (REACH). Camryn earned the SOPHE 21st Century Scholarship and the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Scholarship. Camryn is a member of the Gamma Mu chapter of the national health education honorary, Eta Sigma Gamma. She served as a member of WMU's COVID-19 Pandemic Response Task Force and has volunteered for Sindecuse Health Center as a contact tracer. Camryn spearheaded WMU's installment of the CDC Mask Adherence at Colleges and Universities Project (MASCUP) as one of two selected student coordinators which established a system for data collection and management and supervise a team of 16 student observers as a part of the national research project.

College of Health and Human Services

Eboni N Brown

Presidential Scholar in Nursing



Eboni is from Novi, Michigan and a graduate of Novi High School. At WMU, she is majoring in nursing, is a recipient of a full four-year Medallion Scholarship, a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she will seek employment as a labor and delivery nurse but plans to return to school to obtain a dual specialty in the masters program for women's health as a nurse practitioner and certified nurse-midwifery. Eboni currently works at Ascension Borgess Hospital as a Nurse Intern. Her thesis research is focused on cultural congruence in healthcare with a focus on transgender patients which she will present at the 45th Annual research conference for the Midwest Nursing Research Society. Eboni, along with her peers, has authored an article which was published in the *International Journal of Science and Research Methodology* titled "Schizoaffective Disorder: Implications of Social Dysfunction." In 2020, she was selected to represent the BSON and travel to the Capitol in Washington D.C. for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Student Policy Summit. She is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Sigma Pi honor fraternities. Eboni is a Bronson School of Nursing (BSON) Empower Success navigator and scholar which allowed her to study abroad in Costa Rica.

College of Health and Human Services

Taylor I West

Presidential Scholar in Social Work



Taylor is from Oak Park, Illinois and a graduate of Oak Park River Forest High School. At WMU, she is majoring in social work with a concentration on social justice and administrative policy, minoring in interdisciplinary legal studies, a member of the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. She has submitted applications to law schools and hopes to reform the justice system to ensure that incarcerated individuals can be adequate members of society. Taylor dreams of entering the judiciary as a federal court judge. She was moderator for Make Change: Student Leadership Summit on Advocacy with special guest, author and advocate, Shaun King. As Western Student Association (WSA) Student Body Vice President, she was part of the student team that brought Korey Wise, a member of the Central Park Five, to his first college campus to discuss his story in relation to social justice reform. Taylor was elected as WSA Student Body President in April 2020 and helped organize events dedicated to educating the community on environmental justice and was the first Black female Student Body President. Her P.E.A.K project implemented a social justice fund to help increase the overall graduation rate and dissipate education disparities for marginalized students. This project will help create permanent affinity spaces, improve retention and recruitment for faculty of color, expand undergraduate research opportunities and create new scholarships to increase financial opportunity and support.

College of Health and Human Services

Olivia C Scheel

Presidential Scholar in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences



Olivia is from Kalamazoo, Michigan, a graduate of homeschooling, and attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College. At WMU, she is majoring in speech pathology and audiology, minoring in American Sign Language, is a member in the Lee Honors College, and expects to graduate in May 2021. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a masters degree in speech language pathology. Olivia is currently writing an undergraduate thesis titled “Comparing acoustic and kinematic measures of variability in adults who do and do not stutter”. The thesis explores the theory that people who stutter produce more variable motor speech movements than people who do not stutter, and seeks to develop a new method of measuring this variability using audio recordings. She has served as a research assistant for Dr. Suma Devanga, helping to analyze language samples from individuals with aphasia. Olivia has received the D.K. Sprague Educational Endowed Scholarship, the DENSO Manufacturing Scholarship, and the Chick-fil-A Bright Futures Scholarship. She has volunteered with Bronco Buddies, Kindness Acts 2035, Reading for Tomorrow, the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association, CELCIS, Valley Family Church, and Camp Shout Out, a week-long camp for youth who stutter.