

# PURPLE & BOLD



Alumni Newsletter  
Fall 2019

## Congratulations Class of 2019 graduates!



This year the Honors College had 101 graduates from fall 2018 and spring 2019.

Listed below are all of our graduates from the Class of 2019.

Chloe Agostino	Callie Herman	Daniel Pearce
Austin Allen	Ethan Holland	Claire Perry*
Bina Amin	Sarah Horrell	Morgan Phillips
Scarlett Anthony	Todd Hylton	Megan Piggott*
Avery Apperson	Shamin Jamadar	Casey Powell
Kristen Barnes	Matthew Joyner	Conor Pumphrey
Dominique Bellardini	Carly Judd*	Katherine Ray
Glenesha Berryman*	Aiden Kautz	Lillie Rhodes
Victoria Bishop	Emma Kelly	Adelaide Robbins*
Jessica Bland	Kelly Kimble	Gabby Rudiak
Briceño Bowrey*	Megan Koceja*	Casey Sadler
Julia Brown	Becky Leon	Marianna Shurina
Katie Brown	Taylor Leposa*	Deryn Smith
Jessica Brush	Andrew Li	Julia Stamper
Joshua Butler*	Samuel Lindsay	Alexandria Stephens*
Apogee Childers	Lindsey Locklear*	Alexander Stoehr
Matthew Chilton	Molly Lowder	Catherine Taylor
Jordan Conoly	Meghan Lower*	William Taylor
Bailey Cooper	Patricia Malcolm	Mackenzie Thorley
Hannah Cooper	Justin Martin	Jacqueline Tyson
Drew Corpening	Madison McCauley	Carley VanHoy
Eliza Davis	Alison Moller	Eliza Varju
Michael Denning*	Hannah Moore*	Jonathan Venable
Graziella Dominado	Erica Mullis	Arden Vessie
Emily Downs*	Jenna Murdock	Joseph Ward
Michaela Dunlap	Amy Musgrave	Ashley Weingartz*
Tyler Ebeling	Hannah Myers	Kyndall Westerbeek
Madeline Fleishman*	Daniel Nance*	Thomas Weybrecht
Ariel Fricke	Anna O'Brien	Laura Whittington
Rachel Grantham	Adrienne Orbita	Cayla Wilson
Kara Grubbs	Matthew Pahl	Corey Winkler
Kaitlin Guard	Caitlin Palmer	Claudia Woznichak
Renaë Harper*	Joshua Parker	Garrett Yarbrough*
Coleman Hayes	Mattie Parrott	

\* indicates EC Scholar

## Alumni Profile



### Jerri Strickland Honors College alumnus '17

Jerri Strickland has found inspiration in many places. After the Honors College alumna received her Bachelor of Science in communication with a minor in science from East Carolina University in 2017, she received her Masters from San Diego State University in communication with an emphasis in health.

Currently, Strickland works for two public health research centers, The Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good (CCHPG) and the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center. She cites her work with both centers as an inspiration for her to continue her education and to pursue her PhD in Health Communications so one day she could lead her own campaigns focused on reducing disparities in healthcare.

While pursuing her graduate

degree, Strickland had the opportunity to study abroad in the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. While overseas, she helped to design a health campaign for German men to eat a more balanced diet and was a caretaker for an eighty-year-old Greek woman. "My experiences have helped me realize that traveling expands the mind and you shouldn't limit yourself to research opportunities," she said.

Strickland's own research delved into health campaigns, message design, and doctor-patient interaction. For her thesis, she explored how cancer patients use the word "time" and had access to over two and a half years of conversations between an oncology patient, her family, her friends, the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff. She found that patients use conversations revolving around time to express complex emotions. "Our hope is to take this study and apply it to continuing education for medical professionals to shed light on how conversations as seemingly trivial as the length of an upcoming appointment can provide insight into the emotional wellbeing of a patient," she said.

Read the full story [here](#).



Strickland, left, receives a certificate for SDSU's graduate teaching associate of the year.

# Honors College In The News



## Godwin Presents at International Dental Conference

[Read More](#)



## Students Participate in Puerto Rico ABE to Restore Mangroves

[Read More](#)



## EC Scholars Receive Awards from PKP

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## Student Profile



**Melany Contreras**  
Honors College, Class of 2021

**Study Abroad:**  
Oxford Study Abroad  
Programme in England

Attending the Oxford Study Abroad Program opened Melany Contreras' eyes to a new way of learning and a new college experience.

Contreras enrolled at New College at Oxford for the six-week long program and took a tutorial in introductory chemical thermodynamics.

"It was a very intense environment, academically," Contreras said.

At ECU, students attend lectures several days a week, generally in large classes. However, at Oxford, Contreras only attended her tutorial once a week and it was a one-on-one session with a PhD student.

The learning method was also markedly different. "Usually here, there's a syllabus, lecture notes, PowerPoints. Over there when you just have a tutorial, you are given reading assignments," Contreras said. She discussed how since her focus was STEM, she was given a list of topics to take notes on, suggested books to read and at every tutorial meeting, she was assigned problem sets for the week. Humanities students would also be given readings but instead of problem sets, they would be given an open-ended question that they would have to answer in an essay format. "I had to use the knowledge that I gained from

that reading and apply it to the problem set I had that week," Contreras said. "The learning is very much on you over there."

Contreras picked up several valuable skills during her time at Oxford. "I find myself being curious about books again," she said. "Now reading has emerged as an interest for me again." She said that she was going to utilize that in her future classes as well as the new study skills she learned.

The differences between American universities and Oxford started with the application process. Contreras said they don't care as much about extracurricular activities. "It's very much heavily based in your academics and your intelligence. I think that's a very large part of where the meritocracy over there originates, from those standards."

Contreras recommended this program for any students who want to challenge themselves and grow intellectually. "I consider it to be the hardest thing I've ever done," she said. "I recommend it because you definitely grow a lot while you're there in terms of your career, in terms of what you learn about yourself, but it is definitely not for the lighthearted."

Get the story to share [here](#).

## Support the Honors College

### EC Scholars Priority Fund

The EC Scholars Program recently debuted its initiative to raise \$15,000 for the Priority Fund which supports the Senior Impact Trip. This high impact experience allows students to reflect on their 4-year experience, share their future plans, and reminisce with one another about their accomplishments and shared memories.

We strive to spread this initiative throughout our EC Scholar Alumni network in hopes of continuing to increase our monthly pledges and overall support of the Priority Fund. If you would like to contribute to this initiative please [click here](#) or contact Dr. Todd Fraley, Associate Dean and Director of the EC Scholars Program (fraleyt@ecu.edu) for more information.

### Bassman Study Abroad Fund



We are extremely excited to announce that our Bassman Study Abroad Fund has reached its goal of endowment! In response, the Bassman Fund has provided five Honors students with scholarships: Ashely Arensberg, Madison Moore, Olivia Sessoms, Peyton Paschke, and Sarah Hoffman.

The Bassman Fund scholarships will afford these students the opportunity to continue their studies internationally while gaining a diverse global perspective. Due to the increase in students studying abroad, there were more applications than we could fund. It is our goal to increase the Bassman supplemental fund in order to supply more students with the irreplaceable opportunity of studying abroad. If you wish to contribute to current and future student's international experiences, please [click here](#) to donate or contact Dr. David White, Dean (whited@ecu.edu) for more information.

## Fall 2019 Events

### Party on the Porch

Alumni, students, and friends are invited to join the Honors College to celebrate ECU's 2019 Homecoming as well as the expansion of the Honors College. Come out to Brock's Farm to enjoy dinner, drinks, live music, a corn maze, hay rides, pumpkin picking and games galore! Register for the event [here](#). If you have questions, contact us at [honorscollege@ecu.edu](mailto:honorscollege@ecu.edu) or 252-328-6373.



### EC Scholar named one of Google's 2019 Scholars

Tiffany Nguyen, an EC Scholar, was named a 2019 Google Women's Techmaker Scholar. She will receive \$10,000 for this academic year and was able to attend the Google Scholars' Summit in Santa Clara, California this summer.

The goal of Google's scholarship program is to recognize challenges faced by students from historically underrepresented groups in the tech industry and to strive to make education more accessible by creating programs to engage students from around the world.

Read more about her time at the summit and her thoughts on being a Google Scholar [here](#).



### Founding member of Best Buddies chapter represents ECU at conference

Hannah Martin represented ECU and the state of North Carolina at the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference. Martin is one of the founding members and the current president of [Best Buddies ECU](#).