From the outside, it may appear that the Scholars Program rolls along like a warm breeze on a fall day. However, for those of us on the front lines of the Scholars Program, many days we are so busy and the deadlines are so short that we seem to be feeling the effects of a tornado. Some of that stormy feeling is getting resolved with the welcomed addition of Katherine Bouman as our new Scholars Assistant Director. Katherine comes to us with a wealth of experience, wonderful dedication, and an always-smiling personality. She has already proven to be a great asset to the Scholars Team and we are very fortunate to have her on board the Scholars Program.

Just a few short months ago, we welcomed 98 new students into the Binghamton University Scholars Program. With our goal of about 100 new students per year, we will soon have 400 students enrolled in the Scholars Program. I am very happy to report, that not only are we attracting the best and brightest students on the planet, but once they arrive, they stay. We had a very impressive 94% first year retention rate with last year’s freshmen class returning as sophomores this year.

A great supplement to the Scholars Program this year is the introduction of the DaVinci Team. The first course that our incoming freshmen Scholars take is Thinking Like Leonardo DaVinci. This year the course is being taught by Donald Blake, former Associate Dean of Harpur College and current Interim University Ombudsman; April Thompson, Dean of Students; and Ann Merriwether, Instructor in Psychology and Human Development; and we affectionately refer to them as the DaVinci Team. All of our students are fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated team working with them in their first semester at Binghamton University.

President Stenger and the entire university continue to be wonderfully supportive of the Scholars Program. I am especially thankful to President Stenger, Provost Nieman, Vice-Provost Loewen, our Scholars Mentors, Scholars Faculty, and our Scholars Advisory Board for believing so strongly in the Scholars Program. As the saying goes, it takes a village, and we have a wonderful village at Binghamton University.

As we move forward, please enjoy the rest of the semester, take a few minutes to stop and enjoy the outdoors, learn some great things, have fun, and be well.

Warm regards,

Professor Ziegler

Professor William Ziegler
Executive Director, Binghamton University Scholars Program
Provost Fellow, SUNY Administration
Associate Professor, Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science
Principal Investigator, Federal Aviation Administration
A Scholarly Summer

The Scholars community is made up of so many different types of people, and everybody does something interesting and unique! To get an idea of the diversity of our program, we asked last year’s Scholars how they spent their summer. Here are some of their responses.

Brandon Pereyra (Junior, Mechanical Engineering)
“I had a Department of Energy Science Undergraduate Research Internship at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s National Wind Technology Center. I learned about wind turbine technology, networked with researchers in the renewable energy field, and completed a code in MATLAB to model a hydro-kinetic turbine. We used the code to analyze the effects of implementing different emergency breaks at different locations on the turbine.”

Jesse Cole (Sophomore, Integrative Neuroscience)
“I participated in the Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program (ASSIP) at George Mason University in Virginia. I worked in a proteomics lab, I worked on identifying the mechanism behind the chemobrain phenomenon. Chemobrain is the overall cognitive decline experienced by up to 75% of cancer survivors who undergo chemotherapy. I learned basic scientific procedures such as western blotting and immunohistochemistry, and also got to use cutting-edge procedures like laser capture microdissection and reverse-phase protein microarrays. I also got to present my findings at a poster session at the end of the internship.”

Troy Vargason (Senior, Bioengineering)
“I did research as part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Interdisciplinary Research at Binghampton University. My research involved developing a clinical decision support system for analyzing atypical samples of pleural effusion. The program lasted nine weeks and concluded with a poster presentation.”

Jasper Andrew (Sophomore, Computer Science)
“I worked as a summer camp counselor at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in New Jersey. I took care of kids between 8 and 16 years old, taught classes, ran activities, wore a long skirt for a day, checked a hundred heads for lice, and got atrociously dirty. Seriously. Anyways, it was basically the best summer of my life. I'm planning on doing it again next year. Camp rocks.”
Lindsay Cox (Sophomore, Political Science and English, Global Studies)

“I was an Orientation Advisor for all of the new Binghamton University students. As one of the Scholars Orientation Advisors, I got a chance to meet a lot of the new freshmen Scholars and get them excited about the program and their coming years at Binghamton. It was probably one of the most fun and rewarding summers I’ve ever had.”

Zack Zeller (Senior, Bioengineering and Nutrition)

“I was the third employee of a small business called SuperEats that produced a healthy snack chip. I was in charge of logistics, supply chain supervision, operations, marketing, product skews, and worked at trade shows.”

Sophie Gamer (Junior, Cell Molecular Biology and French)

“I took a course in Molecular Genetics and completed an internship with The Magic Paintbrush Project. I had already been volunteering with The Magic Paintbrush Project through Scholars 227 for the spring semester, and I was asked to be their summer intern. I was offered a job as a facilitator, which I begin training for soon. After I left Binghamton, I spent five weeks in India with a Study Abroad program through the University at Albany and Global Citizens for Sustainable Development. It was a service-learning program so we spent time at Vedike, Eco-living and Learning Center for children, expanding their dormitories. We also spent time touring both North and South India, and learning about recent ecological, social, and political movements and their effect on rural vs. urban development.”

Maura Lewis (Senior, Actuarial Science and Economics)

“I had an internship in Manhattan with the actuarial firm Buck Consultants, A Xerox Company. For 11 weeks, I caught a glimpse of the work world through extensive training and actual client work in the retirement sector. I completed pension valuations, benefit calculations, government filings, data manipulation, and company research. Additionally, I got to travel to the Secaucus, NJ office for the summer intern project which involved the designing of an online financial wellness portal. I also was involved in the development of a new company mobile app.”

Mary McGahay (Junior, Physics)

“I worked with Binghamton University Professor Mativetsky. I did research on organic solar cells, a rather new and promising area of photovoltaics. My team built our own solar cells and devised ways to improve the efficiency. When not in the lab, I worked in the Provost’s office.”

Winnie Chu (Sophomore, Human Development, Global Studies and French)

“I interned at the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier at Binghamton. I worked with the Sunrise Wellness Center, which is a peer run agency; I saw how the stigma of mental illness affects individuals and how it’s intertwined with the criminal justice system as well. I learned a lot through seeing how the agency operates and has inspired me to pursue a career in social work. Additionally, I worked catering events with Sodexo and took an online class called Price of Beauty in Asian Americans.”

Derek Ng (Senior, Accounting and Marketing)

“I interned in the Entertainment, Media, and Communication Assurance practice at PwC. I got to work with many clients that are entertainment companies that are based in NYC. I created special reports that involved updating old data, as well as verifying relevant contracts for multi-million dollar assets. I also traced and tied quarterly financial statements by utilizing client information, Excel, and US GAAP regulations.”
International Business, a Scholars 280 course offered last Spring, connected cultural customs to business relations. Scholars, alongside instructor Senior Associate Dean for Administration Anna Maria Addonisio, discussed places ranging from Sub-Saharan Africa to Germany. Students put their knowledge into practice by forming groups representing various countries, and learned about culture-specific business practices such as the gift-giving practices of South Korea. As stated by Lauren Nardacci ('17), these exercises taught students “how to be cognizant of differing cultures and backgrounds when working [with others], especially in such a diverse and globalized society.”

Students taking the course became aware of corporate social responsibilities common to all businesses. These included an economic duty to produce a profit for shareholders, a philanthropic call to give back to the public, a legal responsibility to obey the law, and an ethical obligation to preserve employees’ and consumers’ well-being. Making connections between culture and business through collaboration was most emphasized when students used the case study method to suggest ways to improve the research and international programs of Mykolas Romeris University (MRU) in Lithuania. The MRU case study allowed Scholars to appreciate the inner workings of an institution both different from and similar to Binghamton University. According to Michael Dolan ('17), the case study allowed students to realize how “all its individual components come together to form a greater whole.”

Dana Mirro ('17), took International Business “because [she] knew little about the subject, and thought it would be interesting to learn about how other cultures and countries do business.” All students interviewed expressed an interest in taking the class again. In fact, Lindsay Cox ('17), is trying to work with Professor Addonisio to establish a “Part Two” to the course. This might include efforts toward a trip to Lithuania to discuss students’ suggestions for MRU’s development. Although it has not yet come to fruition, one thing that was clear throughout the International Business course was that anything is possible when we work together. Scholars should look forward to the prospect of partaking in such an enriching business and cultural experience.
Scholars Events

Here are some of the events we held last year! We’ll be having just as much fun again this year with all the new Scholars!

Upcoming Spring Events

- Scholars Open House
- Binghamton Senators Game
- Scholars Annual Recognition Banquet
- And more!
- Much more!

Halloween Scholars dressed as... each other!

Touring galleries on First Friday with Pres. Stenger

Opening presents at the Holiday Gift Exchange

Enjoying a Scholar-made dinner at Thanksgiving

Gliding by at Skate Estate

Riding the bus to New York City

Hiking at Buttermilk Falls, in Ithaca

Watching a Binghamton Senators hockey game

Movie night!
Michael Dolan  
*Public Relations Coordinator*

**Hometown:** Clarkstown, NY  
**Major:** Integrative Neuroscience  
**What I’m Up To:** Research Assistant in the Dr. Levis Psychopathology Lab, Radio DJ on WHRW Binghamton, Biochemistry Club, Pre-Med Association

“I play the bass. I’m looking forward to getting to know all of you this coming year!”

Kaitlin Biagiotti  
*Vice President*

**Hometown:** Saint James, NY  
**Major:** Biology and Music  
**What I’m Up To:** Campus Tour Guide, Freshmen Research Initiative Program, BU Science Club member, Women’s Choir

“I hiked on a glacier in Alaska once! I also want to say that I am really excited to meet you all and I can’t wait to start next year.”

Arianna Gorkowicz  
*Secretary*

**Hometown:** Livingston, NJ  
**Major:** Integrative Neuroscience  
**What I’m Up To:** Biology and Chemistry Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Research Assistant in campus psych lab

“I am super excited to get to know all of you this semester! I absolutely love the Scholars Program and can’t wait for all of you to benefit from it as much as I have.”

Itai Ferber  
*President*

**Hometown:** New York City  
**Major:** Computer Science  
**What I’m Up To:** Computer Science Department TA, DJ on WHRW Binghamton (radio station), Director of HackBU

“I’m really excited to meet everyone in the fall! I think we’re going to have a wonderful year together, and I’m really looking forward to it.”

Tatiana Requijo  
*Academic Chair*

**Hometown:** Fresh Meadows, Queens, NY  
**Major:** Biological Sciences  
**What I’m Up To:** Campus Tour Guide, Admissions Student Ambassador, Public Speaking Skills Lab, Pre-Med Association, Philippine-American League

“I am so excited to meet all of the new members of our Scholars family! I can’t wait to have a great year together!”

Abigail Giles  
*Social Chair*

**Hometown:** Vestal, NY  
**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology  
**What I’m Up To:** Student United Way, Club Soccer

“I really love The Walking Dead and Pretty Little Liars. Also, I’m excited to continue to meet new students in the upcoming school year!”

Michael Dolan  
*Public Relations Coordinator*

**Hometown:** Clarkstown, NY  
**Major:** Integrative Neuroscience  
**What I’m Up To:** Research Assistant in the Dr. Levis Psychopathology Lab, Radio DJ on WHRW Binghamton, Biochemistry Club, Pre-Med Association

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Caroline Weiss  
*Treasurer*  
**Hometown:** Altamont, NY  
**Major:** Integrative Neuroscience  
**What I’m Up To:** Club Soccer, Boys and Girls Club  
“*I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the fall. I hope that you love Binghamton University as much as I do and that your experience with the Scholars Program is as great as mine was freshman year!*”

Meet the Council!

Dana Mirro  
*Community Service Chair*  
**Hometown:** Port Washington, NY  
**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology and Financial Economics  
**What I’m Up To:** Colleges Against Cancer, Circle K  
“I’m excited to get more involved next year and I look forward to meeting all of you!”

Sophie Gamer  
*Junior Representative*  
**Hometown:** Pound Ridge, NY  
**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology and French  
**What I’m Up To:** President of Women’s Student Union, Peace Action, Students for Social Justice, various dance classes  
“I was a Student Mentor last year, so feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I’m here to help!”

Ryan O’Rourke  
*Sophomore Representative*  
**Hometown:** Greenlawn, NY  
**Major:** Integrative Neuroscience  
**What I’m Up To:** Club Ultimate Frisbee, Sports Debate, Neuroscience club, Biochemistry Club  
“I have a love for sneakers and sports!”
Meet the Mentors!

Martha Engle  
**Hometown:** Poughkeepsie, NY  
**Major:** Psychology and Linguistics, French Minor  
**What I’m Up To:** Multimedia Chair of Peace Action, Fundraising Chair of Global Education Investment, Circle K  
“I’ve met some of my best friends through the program and can’t wait to meet all of the freshmen Scholars!”

Jack Fischer  
**Hometown:** Briarcliff, NY  
**Major:** Computer Science and Math  
**What I’m Up To:** Catholic Group, Peace Action BU  
“Back in high school I rapped about math, and even got on iTunes with my co-rappers.”

Justin Heller  
**Hometown:** Northport, NY  
**Major:** Integrative Neuroscience  
**What I’m Up To:** Project PAW, SAT prep outreach program, Rhythm Method A Capella group, DJ on WHRW (radio station), Binghamton Quidditch Team  
“I like to sing A Cappella, DJ for our radio station, WHRW, and play quidditch in my spare time (actually though).”

Tim Bobrowski  
**Hometown:** Amherst, MA  
**Major:** Undecided  
**What I’m Up To:** Club Ultimate Frisbee, Tutor for UTS  
“I can, and will, grow a beard. Watch out.”
Emily Venizia  
Hometown: Glenmont, NY  
Major: Nursing  
What I’m Up To: Intramurals, Boys and Girls Club mentor, Nursing Students Association, SnoCats, chem/psych tutor  
“I am a big sports fan and love attending games, I enjoy being outdoors, whether it’s playing pickup sports or hiking in the nature preserve, and I am a huge country music fan!”

Lauren Nardacci  
Hometown: Glenmont, NY  
Major: Biomedical Engineering  
What I’m Up To: Co-Fundraising Chair of Global Education Investments, Circle-K, intramural sports  
“I enjoy playing sports, especially tennis, and so I hope to join the club team this semester. In addition, I will be getting involved with research this semester.”

Samuel David Bravo  
Hometown: Mexico City, MX / Waverly, NY  
Major: Computer Science  
What I’m Up To: Origami Club Webmaster, BASIC Treasurer, HackBU, Math Club Member  
“I love rice. It’s the best.”

Jesse Cole  
Hometown: Garrett Park, MD  
Major: Integrative Neuroscience (Pre-Med)  
What I’m Up To: Harpur Jazz Ensemble, Global Medical Brigades, Running Club, Biology Department T.A.  
“I’m really into sports and music. I’m also from Maryland, so if anyone is looking for advice about adjusting to Binghamton, feel free to talk to me.”

Nick Doran  
Hometown: Cicero, NY  
Major: Economics, undecided second major  
What I’m Up To: Secretary of Peace Action, Academic Vice President of Newing College Council, Vote Everywhere Ambassador  
“I’m an avid reader and I like to play tennis and bike.”

Kim Washburn  
Hometown: Northport, NY  
Major: Biology, History minor  
What I’m Up To: Women’s Student Union, Peace Action BU, volunteer at A New Hope Center in Owego, New York  
“I have an unhealthy tendency to listen to showtunes more often than not, and in the off chance I’m not studying, I love taking photographs.”
One of the most appealing aspects of being part of the Scholars Program, which is so student-focused, is the wealth of opportunities to get involved. A great way to do so is by joining a Committee or the Scholars Council. A requirement of running for Scholars Council is membership on a Committee. You may choose from the Academic, Social, Community Service, Public Relations, or Grade Rep Committees. These experiences offer a way to be a part of the public face of the program, and to impact the organization of the program. If you're interested in getting more involved, and helping shape the program for future students, we urge you to come join a Committee, and run for Scholars Council! If you are interested in joining a Committee, please contact the Chair of the committee you want to join. If you have questions about running for Scholars Council or joining a committee, please contact Itai Ferber at iferber1@binghamton.edu.

Committee and council members design and plan events and activities for their fellow Scholars students, but don’t worry, they get to participate as well! Everybody is involved when there’s good times to be had!
The community service committee has been working hard to organize several events for this semester. Thus far, we have volunteered at Habitat for Humanity's Shak-A-Thon, Soup and Sandwich Saturday and the CHOW walk. Although we did not win the Shak-A-Thon, several students came out to help us build and it was a lot of fun for everyone involved. The students who volunteered at Soup and Sandwich Saturday found it very rewarding, so we will be volunteering there two more times during the semester. We are also in the process of organizing a clean-up event for the Nature Preserve as well as events with the Roberson Museum and Science Center and Project PAW. Additionally, we plan to collaborate with the student mentors to organize a food drive at Scholars Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to upcoming events and hope our efforts help make a difference in the community! If you are interested in joining the Community Service Committee, contact Dana Mirro at dmirro1@binghamton.edu.
Engage with B-Engaged!

What is B-Engaged?! Why do I keep getting emails about it? How can I use B-Engaged to help me? How engaged do I really need to B?

Scholars- I know that these are the types of questions that keep you up at night and I’m here to help! This quick article will help you rest easy (and not because it will bore you to sleep!) when it comes to all questions B-Engaged.

Let’s start with some background: over the past couple of years, Binghamton University has transitioned to B-Engaged as a one-stop-shop for co-curricular involvement. It’s most robust use comes from the Student Association; all 300+ SA student groups maintain a B-Engaged profile. They use it to track group membership, event attendance, and advertise upcoming events. In the very near future, the B-Engaged calendar will be the primary resource for event advertisement.

But why should I care about all of this if I’m not a club President? Great question! Every time someone scans your ID at an event or you request to join a group on B-Engaged, it shows up on your Involvement Transcript. B-Engaged takes everything you do that isn’t academic (and some academic items in the case of Scholars!) and puts it together into a nice document. You can manipulate it, print it, and most importantly, showcase everything you are doing both on and off campus! At the end of the day, the goal of B-Engaged is to allow you to reference a full list of everything you do (your Involvement Transcript) and use it to help create a résumé.

But wait! There’s more! Let’s talk Scholars for a moment. We’re also tracking your Scholars Degree Requirements with it. After logging in, you will see your curriculum progress on the home screen. It’s important that you familiarize yourself with the requirements and that you monitor your progress.

What do I have to do to make sure that all of this goes smoothly? Wow, you’re on fire with these questions! Your Curriculum Module on B-Engaged does most of the work for you, but for Scholars III & IV especially, we need you to be on top of a couple easy things. Check out the Program Checklist on the Scholars website for details, but make sure that you’re filling out the proper forms at the right time. Most importantly, you need to be checking your Curriculum Progress every semester to make sure that everything looks correct. Remember that if you have any issues or questions at all, please email me, Tim Friedmann at tfriedm1@binghamton.edu!

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• Dana Mirro - “Committees: Community Service”
• Tatiana Requijo - “SCHL 280 Highlight: Int’l Business”
• Professor Ziegler - “From the Desk of Professor Ziegler”