Scholars Magazine

Exploring Outside the Classroom pg.14

The Scholars Program's Fab Five pg.12

Why Do You Support Scholars? pg.5

Scholars Give Over 3,000 Hours of Community Service! pg.10
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From the Desk of Professor Ziegler</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why Do You Support Scholars?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scholars Learning Community</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars Student Council</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerating My Degree</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview with Katherine Bouman</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Freshman Research Immersion Program</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars Give Over 3,000 Hours of Community Service!</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Spotlight: Professor Wayne Jones</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars 280: The Military-Industrial Complex</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fab Five</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Outside the Classroom</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry Page</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2018 Statistics</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributor Profiles</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Desk of Professor Ziegler

Welcome to the third issue of the Binghamton University Scholars Magazine.

This issue has been created from start to finish by our undergraduate Scholars, and I could not be more proud of them. The intent of the Scholars Magazine is to inform the Binghamton University campus and beyond about our incredible Scholars and those that support them.

The Scholars Program has undergone many changes since I became Executive Director just a few short years ago, and this is a particularly defining year. Four years ago, five students arrived at Binghamton University and from day one they influenced the Scholars Program in remarkable ways. The Scholars Program that exists today is the result of the great vision and an unbelievable number of hours contributed by these five remarkable students; Sarah Glose ('14), Bridget Murphy ('15), Megan Barry ('15), Tim Friedmann ('15), and Alex Koenig ('15); and you can read more about them in a special article within this issue of the Magazine. As they graduate and head out into the next phase of their lives, I know I will miss them greatly and will always remember and appreciate all they have done for the Scholars Program and Binghamton University. Best wishes and happy landings to Sarah, Bridget, Megan, Tim, and Alex.

Within the pages of this issue of the Scholars Magazine, we have provided a glimpse of the world-class students we have at Binghamton University, some of the great things they are accomplishing, and some of the support provided by staff and faculty for students in the Scholars Program. Readers will find interviews with current Scholars faculty and staff members, statistics on our freshman class, articles on Scholars’ research and campus resources, and poetry written by Scholars. My favorite piece documents why people from all walks-of-life on campus support our Program.

Each of our Scholars contributes to the Scholars family in his or her own way, and I have never been more proud of them. I am especially thankful to President Stenger, Provost Nieman, Vice-Provost Loewen, our Scholars Mentors, Scholars Faculty, Scholars Advisory Board and all those at Binghamton University for believing so strongly in the Scholars Program. I am incredibly fortunate to have the dream job of working with so many talented, enthusiastic, and just all-around great students, staff, and administrators.

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 •
Donald G. Nieman  
*Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

“The Scholars Program provides a wonderful opportunity for highly motivated students from across the campus to interact with one another and with some of our best faculty in an academic environment that encourages interdisciplinary inquiry and fosters curiosity. But the Scholars aren’t the only ones to benefit. The Program has provided me an opportunity to get to know and interact with some very talented students and to draw on their talents, motivation, and can-do spirit as interns working on special projects in the Provost’s Office.”

Randall M-J Edouard  
*Assistant Provost and Director of Admissions*

“Undergraduate Admissions at Binghamton University supports the Scholars Program because the students who are selected for the Program have demonstrated through their great work in high school that they are more than committed to academia. They have illustrated great potential to achieve at a high level in scholarship and research through their intellectual pursuits, extracurricular achievements, and they also show great promise for future growth and exploration. Binghamton University Scholars distinguish themselves for their remarkable academic and personal achievements, dynamism, intellectual curiosity, the originality and independence of their thinking, and the diversity that stems from their different cultures and their varied educational experiences. The Binghamton University Scholars Program has thus been specifically designed to serve as fertile ground from which Scholars can grow and seize the opportunity for greatness. The Program serves as a wonderful hub for students who have demonstrated the capacity to apply their intellectual gifts to better serve society. The Binghamton University Scholars Program is where students can expand and strengthen themselves as thinkers, learning from each other as well as from leaders in the academic and professional world.”

Deana M. Kalcich  
*Assistant Director of Residential Life*

“I think the Scholars Program allows students to gain valuable personal and academically appropriate developmental experiences. It engages students early and helps provide them the tools necessary to become scholars in a college setting instead of simply walking away from Binghamton University with a degree. Like everything else we do, the Scholars Program provides an opportunity to provide holistic education to high achieving students.”

Why Do You Support Scholars?  
by Megan Barry
Mark Reisinger  
*Department of Geography*  
*Faculty Master, Newing College*

“"The Scholars Program/Learning Community has become an important part of the Newing Tradition. The Program exemplifies what we are trying to achieve in Newing - an academic community of learners. In addition, many Scholars have taken on important leadership roles in Newing College, including members of the Newing College Council e-board, hall e-boards, as well as RAs. In many ways, Scholars act as role models for other residents in Newing College.”

Michelle D. Jones  
*Assistant Director, Harpur Academic Advising*

“I support the Binghamton University Scholars because they inspire me! Every administrator and student in the Program has a great sense of passion for learning and service. It is incredibly contagious and motivating. It’s a pleasure to work so closely with this Program, its administrators and its students!”

Suzanne Howell  
*Director of Residential Life and Housing*

“I enjoy supporting the Scholars Program as they are highly motivated and driven students. Providing space in a residential area where they can learn and grow from each other is very rewarding. At the same time they can interact with their area community.”

---

Scholars visit the 9/11 Memorial on a trip to NYC.

It’s not just about the work. Sometimes we just like to chill.

Freshmen Natalie Anselmi and Jason Anesini present at the FRI convention.

President Stenger snaps a photo of some Scholars on a hike at Buttermilk Falls.
The Scholars Learning Community
by Brittany Berke

What is a group of the best and brightest Binghamton students living in one of the University’s newest residential communities called? Answer: The Scholars Learning Community. It sounds almost too good to be true. But sure enough, the Scholars Learning Community can be found right on the third floors of Broome and Endicott Hall, in Newing College.

When asked what she values about the Learning Community, Hannah Sheridan (‘18), a Broome Scholar, smiles and says “built-in friends!” Julia Suss (‘18) loves “the social aspect and all of the open doors,” and Maggie Fox (‘18) adds, “You have a tight knit group of friends that you know you can depend on.” The Learning Community allows Scholars to connect with one another and form strong friendships with other bright and ambitious students.

The Learning Community also fosters academic growth and provides a support system. Eric Inkleis (‘18), an Endicott Scholar, appreciates “that everybody in the Program is in the same place so we’re all able to help each other with work.”

William Albert (‘18), a Broome Scholar, sums up it up perfectly: “We learn together and improve ourselves daily.” The Scholars Learning Community is a place where students study, socialize, and make memories and friends that will last a lifetime. The Learning Community is more than just where we live; it’s our home.

Scholars Student Council
by Itai Ferber

The Binghamton University Scholars Program provides students with ample opportunities for leadership. Several of the University’s Scholars volunteer in community activities and are involved in research activities under the guidance of professors. Scholars are offered many networking opportunities with University administrators through social events. As Council President, I have been fortunate to get acquainted with students, to work with Scholars staff to relay input and suggestions, and most importantly, to give back to the Program by running events and helping shape the future.

The Council is composed of Representatives and Committee Chairs, each taking on a specific task. The Social Chair, for example, is responsible for organizing and running social events for the program. The Academic Chair is tasked with creating events that promote academic growth for the students. The Community Service Chair is responsible for organizing opportunities for Scholars to become civically engaged and active within the greater Binghamton community. These positions are filled by democratic elections. Students elect candidates who contribute most to the Program, ensuring that Council represents the most eager and involved students.

The Council is the student voice for the Scholars Program. While Professor Ziegler often talks about the Scholars Program being a “Program of Opportunities,” it’s Council’s responsibility to contribute to these privileges and provide new experiences to the student body.
I first started here at Binghamton University as a freshman, and like many others, I had no idea what I wanted to major in or what direction my professional life would turn — but what I did know is that I wanted to be as prepared, as marketable and as competitive as possible.

During family weekend of my freshman year, my mom and I attended an info-session and learned about the accelerated degree programs offered at Binghamton University, programs that would allow me to earn a professional degree with only one extra year of education. Being a freshman, I still did not know where in Binghamton I would end up finding my place – I was still pre-med at the time! – but I liked the idea of saving time and saving money on my next degree. There were so many options and combinations, but I knew whatever I chose, I could find a niche that worked for me.

After taking many general education classes, I finally found that my passion was in philosophy, and I declared my major as Philosophy, Politics and Law. Sophomore year, I made an appointment with Kristina Lambright, a professor in the Public Administration program, to talk about the accelerated degree option and whether or not it would be a good fit for me. I was able to tour the building and become familiar with the kinds of work I would be doing – it was a great experience.

I started my graduate classes in the accelerated program in the second semester of my junior year, with Senior 1 standing. It was great knowing how much time I would save, and having the ability to make connections in my new program so early. And because I was being charged undergraduate rates for graduate classes, I was also saving money – an outstanding value.

This semester is my first semester as a graduate student status-wise, but my third semester in the MPA program. Because I fast tracked my professional education, I had room in my course load to pick up two specialization certificates while I pursue my Masters! I could not ask for more. I will graduate in fall 2015 with my Bachelors of Arts, Masters of Public Administration, Local Government Certification and Nonprofit Certification in four and a half years; nine semesters. I saved myself 3 semesters of graduate tuition and fees, a savings of over $18,000.

For me, the accelerated program at Binghamton University was a phenomenal decision, and I could not be happier with my decision, or my education.

For more information, explore online at www.binghamton.edu/grad-school/fast-track, or contact the Graduate School at:

(607) 777–2151
gradadmission@binghamton.edu ●
Interview with Katherine Bouman, Assistant Director of the Scholars Program
by Brittany Berke

Brittany: You attended the Bank Street College of Education. What drew you to education? Was there a defining moment in your life that made you want to teach?

Katherine: My first year out of college I worked as a Scheduling Coordinator at KPMG in San Francisco. I had no idea what I was going to do with a BA in Anthropology (focus on primatology), but knew I didn’t want to work in a zoo or in the jungles of Borneo, and I wasn’t attracted to a PhD program. As a side story, I did actually interview to be a head carnivore feeder at a zoo in California - but that’s another story! My husband, then boyfriend, and I decided to move back to NYC. We packed up the U-Haul and drove across country. On that drive we did a lot of soul searching to figure out what we wanted out of life in order to feel professionally fulfilled. I felt that I could find meaning in a life of teaching and working with children and always loved the idea of museums as civic (and public) institutions. We had planned to arrive in New York City on September 11, 2001. A lot changed in everyone’s lives on that day. And, while we both struggled to make our lives work in the next few years in our crummy apartment in Brooklyn, we both followed our dreams and stuck to our guns on finding occupations that were personally and professionally fulfilling.

B: You’ve worked at a number of amazing museums-The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The American Museum of Natural History (just to name a few). Can you explain how you’ve created connections between education and art?

K: Wow. This is a big question. It’s easy to create connections between education and art because art is actually in aspects of all of our lives whether we are aware of it or not. And, content is learned when it is personally relevant to the student. Sometimes art is just the lens through which we enter. I guess what I strive to do when teaching a work of art to students ages 2 through 92 is to help people to realize that art is not a rarified subject that only a cultural elite is privy to understanding or discussing. Art, in its many forms, is part of all of our cultural lexicons and is also part of the public trust. We are its stewards, and the sooner we as a civilization realize, appreciate, and take ownership of the responsibilities that come with recognizing that fact, the better for all mankind. Does that sound too preachy?

B: As the new Assistant Director for the Scholars Program, what are you most excited about? Is there anything new in store for us this year that you’ve been working on?

K: I’m excited about a lot of things, both in working on campus and in particular working for the Scholars Program. The thing that has impressed me most in being here is that you are an incredible bunch of students. I wish that when I was in college I had had just one ounce of the ambition that I see in each of you. I’m very grateful to have this job and feel so fortunate to work with such inspiring young people. I have some big picture ideas for the Scholars Program - especially in terms of career development and alumni networking that I’m excited about. We’ll see what happens next.

B: You’ve had an extremely successful and varied career. What is your advice to students when thinking about our own future career paths?

K: Well, the thing that I guess I would emphasize to students, and certainly to my own daughters, is that your twenties are a difficult decade that really no one can prepare you for. You will be challenged professionally and personally in ways you never expected. But, the important thing to remember is that nothing in life (except death) is permanent, and humans are resilient beings. Be open to change and know that it’s an important part of the journey. But, all the while keep your eyes on the prize and don’t lose sight of that thing that is important to you.
The Freshman Research Immersion Program
by Jason Anesini and Maggie Fox

The Freshman Research Immersion (FRI) is a new initiative that aims to immerse incoming freshman in higher-level, collegiate research. Students participate in a three-semester program, building basic research skills, developing proper lab etiquette, and implementing research projects. Currently, FRI offers three research streams: biofilms, neuroscience, and smart energy.

Scholar Jason Anesini, who studies in the biofilms research stream, has been investigating the increased antibiotic resistance that bacteria exhibit when present in a biofilm. Jason hopes to look at different ways of inhibiting the growth of biofilms. Working together with other freshmen in his research stream, Jason will probe the genetic factors that influence the formation of biofilms in an effort to control their growth in medical spaces.

Scholar Maggie Fox, who studies in the smart energy research stream, has been researching solid state chemistry in an effort to create polymers used in solar-energy cells. Later in the semester, Maggie will participate in more experiments exploring further uses of material science in the storage of energy. She and the other freshmen will apply this knowledge to test different ways to increase the efficiency of the lithium-ion battery. Unlike traditional lab-science courses, FRI provides students with the opportunity to complete graduate level inquiry in their freshman year. This isn’t a class where the students know what their results will be before they complete the study. The students’ findings will be applied to the current groundwork that has been established in its respective fields: molecular biology, neuroscience, and environmental and material science.

Scholars Give Over 3,000 Hours of Community Service!
by Bridget Murphy

A core foundation of the Scholars Program is the belief that our students should be exposed to experiential learning, a valuable and rewarding hands-on learning experience to augment traditional academic coursework. This idea became the inspiration for our service-learning course, SCHL 227-Leadership, Project Management and Service. This semester, 79 students registered for the course to each perform 40 hours of community service with local organizations, which amounts to a grand total of over 3,000 service hours.

Alex Koenig and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to lead Scholars in their mission to create a meaningful impact on the local community. We enjoy watching the students conceptualize these projects and implement changes that transform the community for years to come. Students taking this course are currently sophomores and choose to work with one of eight local organizations including CHOW, the Johnson City Urban Center, the SUNY Attain Labs at Binghamton, and several others.

We are currently assisting with the development of a school garden project for Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse, fondly known as “CHOW”. My students are working to create a school garden for the Johnson City Middle School. They will also teach young students important life skills such as caring for plants, understanding nutrition and learning about organic foods. They are working with experts from CHOW to develop a curriculum for teachers to incorporate into their classrooms as well as preparing for the installation of the actual garden come Spring. The Scholars have been working diligently over the course of the semester and we cannot wait to see what the garden will look like come May!

Students volunteer at CHOW’s Soup and Sandwich Saturday.
Faculty Spotlight: Professor Wayne Jones
by Jung Park

Chemistry Professor Wayne Jones Jr. not only encompasses all the qualities of an excellent professor, but also exhibits the qualities of a mentor, father, and leader. Even though much of Professor Jones’s day consists of paperwork, research, and teaching, he makes time to personally sit with students to discuss their interests and makes time to watch Walking Dead with his son, Eric, every Sunday.

Professor Jones’s passion for Chemistry began as early as high school. In an attempt to impress his basketball coach, also a chemistry teacher, he decided to take a chemistry course. He then learned of his high aptitude for chemistry and went to college to pursue the subject he fell in love with.

Dr. Jones teaches a junior level course at Binghamton about inorganic and materials chemistry. He does research on photo-induced electron and energy transfer processes in inorganic and polymer systems. His research is undoubtedly impressive and he involves students to help him with it. A student in the Scholars Program, Jen Troiano (’17), works in one of his labs. Troiano says that, “Dr. Jones has been an invaluable resource... he will always take the time to answer a question I may have.”

Professor Jones says that the best part about being a professor is that he helps students discover new things about themselves, whether it may be through their struggles or successes. He loves to spend time with students in his office hours or in his classes. Dr. Jones is a mentor for Scholars students and loves to give them advice, whether it be life, career, or academic advice.

Outside of his job, Dr. Jones plays volleyball, golf, and loves to travel. He says that his favorite travels were to China and Germany, both for science exchange programs. He is extremely proud of his four children who will all be in college this year.

Professor Jones is undoubtedly an invaluable contributor to Binghamton University as well as the Scholars Program and continues to influence people around him in a positive way.

Scholars 280: The Military-Industrial Complex
by Shiau-Sing Ciecierska

During his farewell address, President Eisenhower warned the American people to “guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.” Today, the military is a constant presence in the lives of every citizen of the United States. Its presence is felt directly through the service of a family member or indirectly through the pervasiveness of militia in popular culture and political rhetoric. The conglomerate of forces that claim the task of protecting this country’s citizens have come to awe, inspire, and worry the nation. Its entanglement with the government, economy, and hearts of families waiting for returning service members has caused those who remember Eisenhower’s warning to question whether the power held by the United States Military truly has become a cause for concern.

In the spring of 2015 Binghamton University Scholars were offered to take a class entitled “The Military Industrial Complex,” under the guidance of Professor Josh Reno of the Department of Anthropology. Scholars in this class were asked to share their thoughts on the presence and implications of this proposed “military industrial complex.” Through lively and sometimes dangerously avant garde discussions and guest speakers, Professor Reno prompts students to question exactly how much the military controls one’s daily life. Professor Reno’s enthusiasm for the subject prevents students from day-dreaming in class. Instead, students are riveted by the theoretical and philosophical implications of the parallels and contradictions between the cinematic war hero and the reality of the American military.
The Fab Five

Four years ago, five students arrived at Binghamton University and from day one they influenced the Scholars Program in innumerable ways. The Scholars Program that exists today is the result of the great vision and an unbelievable number of hours contributed by these five remarkable students.

Megan Barry
Mathematics and Economic Analysis, Management Adjunct

Favorite thing about being a Scholar:
I love being part of an organization that focuses on student development. I have grown more academically, professionally, and socially than I ever thought I could in four years. I am incredibly prepared to join the workforce and it's all thanks to the valuable experiences I had as a Scholar.

What you will miss most about the Scholars Program once you graduate:
I am really going to miss my Scholars network, including the staff and all of my Scholars friends. I've had the pleasure of working with truly dedicated people, Professor Ziegler, Mary LaCourt, and Katherine Bouman and they have inspired me to work as hard as they do everyday and to always have fun along the way. I have also made my very best friends through this Program and I will miss having them constantly by my side. The Scholars Program has been an amazing environment for my college experience.

Future Plans:
I plan on continuing my education to pursue an MBA at University of Rochester's Simon School of Business this fall. I hope to join the finance world upon graduation.

Alex Koenig
Electrical Engineering

Favorite thing about being a Scholar:
I love the fact that I have met so many unique, intelligent and friendly people throughout my time in the Scholars Program. I have made so many connections with different students, faculty, and staff involved with the program that I would not have made otherwise. I am confident that these connections have strengthened my education and may even have a positive impact on my career.

What you will miss most about the Scholars Program once you graduate:
I will miss my Scholar friends, including Professor Ziegler, Mary and Katherine, without a doubt. I always say that the people are by far the best aspect of the Scholars Program and I can't emphasize it enough. My group of Scholar friends really turned my freshman year around and made me happy to be here. We have had a lot of fun over the past 4 years and I will definitely miss seeing them every day.

Future Plans:
In the very near future, I plan on remaining in denial about graduating, reluctantly going to the ceremony, and then spending a month or so traveling across Europe. After that, I will be returning to Binghamton for another year to complete my MBA.

above-left: Megan Barry, above-right: Alex Koenig
below-left: Tim Friedmann, below-right: Bridget Murphy
next page: Sarah Glose with Professor Ziegler
Sarah Glose  
*Bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in global cultures and creative writing; Master of Public Administration with a concentration in sustainable communities*

**Favorite thing about being a Scholar:**

Being a Binghamton University Scholar was an amazing experience for me as an undergraduate. It gave me an immediate place to belong at a large University, and I will always be grateful to the program for the sense of community that it fosters among its students. Academically and professionally, the Binghamton University Scholars Program literally changed my life by introducing me to Binghamton University faculty and staff who helped guide me to choose my career path and my master degree program. I could not imagine my life without this Program.

**What you will miss most about the Scholars Program once you graduate:**

The Binghamton University Scholars Program leadership was, and continues to be, hugely influential to me. Professor Ziegler and Mary LaCourt care deeply for the students in the program, and they both work hard to ensure that everyone is happy, healthy, and following the best path for them. For me, both Professor Ziegler and Mary acted as amazing mentors and helped me make several key decisions. With Katherine Bouman joining the team this year, I have no doubt that the capacity of the Scholars Program staff to care about students has only increased.

**Future Plans:**

I am currently pursuing a Masters Degree at Binghamton University, and I will be applying for jobs in sustainable economic development at the local government level upon graduation.

Tim Friedmann  
*Cell and Molecular Biology*

**Favorite thing about being a Scholar:**

The Scholars Family! I love how I instantly had a group of best friends from the moment I moved into the Scholars Learning Community.

**What you will miss most about the Scholars Program once you graduate:**

I’m going to miss the incredibly tight-knit sense of community that comes along with being a Scholar. Not only my friends, but the Professors, Mentors, Staff, and Administrators that are tied to the Program have always gone above and beyond expectation to support me; it’s hard to find that anywhere but the Scholars Program!

**Future Plans:**

Next year, I will be attending Stony Brook School of Medicine in hopes of becoming an Emergency Room Physician.

Bridget Murphy  
*Business Management and Psychology*

**Favorite thing about being a Scholar:**

My favorite part of being a Scholar was the unique opportunities I’ve had. In the last four years I’ve gotten to travel to Niagara Falls, NY, Reno, NV, New Orleans, LA, San Francisco, CA, and Washington DC all thanks to the Scholars Program! I’ve been so lucky to get to travel all across the US representing Binghamton University and the Binghamton University Scholars Program.

**What you will miss most about the Scholars Program once you graduate:**

The best thing that the Scholars Program gave me was a family away from home that I couldn’t have survived the last four years without. I met most of my best friends through the Scholars Program and I will miss the entire Scholars Family supporting me through everything I do!

**Future Plans:**

I will be working as an Advisory Associate in KPMG’s Risk Consulting Advisory practice in Manhattan.
While it is true that Scholars are known for their academic achievement and book smarts, there is more to being a worldly human being than what you’ll find in your average lecture hall. The Binghamton University Scholars Program strives to assist budding individuals to grow into the most global, well-rounded citizens they can possibly be, and given the opportunity, these hardworking students unfailingly are up to the challenge.

In addition to the large community service contribution built into the Program’s SCHL 227 course, the Community Service Committee, headed by Scholar Dana Mirro (‘17), has been constantly organizing opportunities for students to make an impact locally. From writing cards for those less fortunate to helping out at soup kitchens and animal shelters, dozens of Scholars get involved every month to make Binghamton a better place.

The scope of Scholars’ influence is not limited to just Binghamton, however. Just this past Spring, Scholars Emily Venizia (‘17) and Michelle Piazza (‘18) went all the way to Georgia to work with Habitat for Humanity. There they worked long days constructing homes for people who don’t have a roof over their heads, and they reportedly had a good bit of fun doing it as well.

With various learning and contributing ventures across the globe, from Europe to India and Israel to Asia, Binghamton University Scholars students have affected, and continue to affect, the world community in a strictly positive fashion. There is no question that, in the not-too-distant future, we will be seeing the ripples of these students’ actions bring change where it is most needed. With the help of the Scholars Program, today’s students will become tomorrow’s leaders.

Scholars Emily Venizia and Michelle Piazza in Georgia with Habitat for Humanity.
Winter, by Nuri Harper

I remember Winter fondly
like the Grandfathers I never knew
only heard stories about.

The first time I remember his
November ragged breath on my ears
I was six, maybe seven
maybe old enough to be alone.

He came home during the night
left his heavy cotton jacket outside
his short, white hair falling out of his skull
covering the trees until their limbs grew heavy
with old water,
fully formed crystals freezing symmetrically,
perfect.

I remember his frigid voice on my face
as if he was telling me
that perfect snowflakes only formed around
quiet children
as my breath froze in my lungs.

So I said nothing as I laid back
in his December sagging arms
wrapping around my neck
slipping into the space between my boots
creeping to my numb toes,
like he was trying to tickle me.

I ran where my footsteps
would make snow crumble and
ice shatter.
No one could hear them and
only he could feel them
stirring in the cold wind.

He was everywhere.
I hid in ice caverns dug out of his linty pockets
slipped on my back poking holes to the January grey sky
snow falling into my winter hide
water trickling down my back
no one could see my tears freeze.

His February fingertips brushed my cheek
clinking against each other in the darkness
smooth as an icicle he’d say
chuckling in a low cracking noise,
like a frozen river trying to move.

His tears slid down breath fogged windows
during his March goodbye.
I liked to think he’d miss me,
his crooked snow angel,

and the memory of me gathering a fresh snow fall in my
swollen, red palms
shaping it into
a heart as cold as his.
By the numbers, the Binghamton University Scholars Program Class of 2018 is one of the most impressive to enter the Program in its fifteen-year history. Before delving into the admissions stats, here are some demographics:

The Class of 2018 came in comprised of 97 students. Of those:
47 are Male – 48.5%
50 are Female – 51.5%

Additionally,
12 students came from Out-of-State – 12.4%
85 students came from In-State – 87.6%

And here is the breakdown by the school these students matriculated into:
65 are in Harpur College of Arts and Sciences – 67%
30 are in the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science – 31%
1 is in the College of Community and Public Affairs – 1%
1 is in the Decker School of Nursing – 1%

Finally, here is the admissions profile for our newest group of Scholars. The following statistics are all averages for the entire Class of 2018:

Standardized Test Scores:
SAT Critical Reading: 722
SAT Math: 733
SAT Writing: 704
SAT Critical Reading/Math: 1455
SAT Total: 2159
ACT: 33

High School GPA: 98.5

Those are incredibly competitive numbers and they are definitely a reflection on the high standards the Binghamton University Scholars Program strives to maintain. With the University as a whole becoming more and more selective, it will come as no surprise to see even more remarkable Scholar’s class profiles in the future.
Contributor Profiles

Victoria Anderson ('14), “Accelerating My Degree”
Victoria is a graduate assistant for Graduate Admissions and is part of the accelerated program. She majored in Philosophy, Politics, and Law in undergrad and transitioned into the Public Administration program. In only 9 semesters, she has completed a Bachelors degree, Master's degree and 2 additional certifications.

Jasper Andrew ('17), “Exploring Outside the Classroom”, Magazine design/layout/cover
Jasper is a Computer Science student and Scholars Office Assistant from Santa Cruz, California. He likes photography, art, design, nature, people, games, Reese's Cups, and any combination thereof.

Jason Anesini ('18), “The Freshman Research Immersion Program”
Jason is a biochemistry major prospectively minoring in Economics from River Edge, New Jersey. He is involved in the Scholars Academic Committee and outside of university enjoys singing, video gaming, and reading dystopia novels.

Megan Barry ('15), “Why Do You Support Scholars?”, Editing/proofing
Megan is a Mathematics and Economic Analysis double major from Albany, NY. Within the Scholars Program, she has served as Council Secretary, Scholars RA, SCHL127 TA, and currently as an Undergraduate Assistant.

Brittany Berke ('18), "Interview with Katherine Bouman, Assistant Director of the Scholars Program"
Brittany is a Theatre and English double major from Rockville Centre, NY. This year, along with writing for the Scholars newsletter, she has participated in shows with Binghamton Mainstage, Dickinson Community Players, and Hinman Production Company.

Tim Bobrowski ('17), Poem
In addition to being a Student Mentor for the Scholars Program, Tim is also an English Major, a tutor for University Tutoring Services, and captain of the Club Ultimate team.

Shiau-Sing Ciecierska ('18), “Scholars 280: The Military-Industrial Complex”
Shiau-Sing is interested in Neuroscience and likes to read, play sports, and be sarcastic.

Itai Ferber ('16), “Scholars Student Council”
Itai is a Computer Science student from New York City. He is the President of the Scholars Program Council and in his free time he enjoys reading, coding, and teaching students how to code at HackBU.

Maggie Fox ('18), “The Freshman Research Immersion Program”
Maggie Fox is a Chemistry major with a minor in Education from Brooklyn, New York. Outside of class, she is involved in volunteer projects with the Girl Scouts of the Greater New York area and with the education club on campus.

Nuri Harper ('17), Poems
Nuri is from Norwich, New York, the son of a doctor and a gardener, and is majoring in Chemistry. In his free time he enjoys getting lost in the woods, writing poetry/fantasy, and dancing to loud music.

Alex Koenig ('15), “Class of 2018 Statistics”
Alex is an Electrical Engineering major from Kings Park, NY and one of the Scholars Program Undergraduate Assistants. He likes to golf and play hockey, as well as organize his sock drawer and make unnecessarily detailed to-do lists.

Bridget Murphy ('15), “Scholars Give Over 3,000 Hours of Community Service!”
Bridget is from East Islip, a town on the south shore of Long Island. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. She's been involved in the Scholars Program for the last four years serving as Scholars Council President, Coordinator of Public Relations, Scholars RA, a Teaching Assistant for SCHL 127 and 227, and most recently an Undergraduate Assistant.

Jung Park ('18), "Faculty Spotlight: Professor Wayne Jones"
Jung is from Westchester, NY. He is double majoring in Computer Engineering and Business Administration, and his hobbies include watching T.V., playing sports and learning new things. He is on the social committee for the Scholars Program.