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Cover photo: Scholar Ivanna Grynyk (’18) poses next to a street sculpture in downtown Philadelphia
Opposite page: Throwback! Newing Scholars dress up as each other for Halloween in 2013
We began this academic year by moving to a new space in the Rockefeller Center (the one at Binghamton University, not New York City). We are fortunate to have a student lounge and project lab just for our Scholars students, along with state of the art media equipment for student presentations and group work. In late August, we welcomed 150 new freshmen Scholars to the Program, an unexpected 50% jump in enrollment. Additionally, we welcomed 200 returning Scholars, with a record-breaking 98% retention rate of returning sophomores!

I am very proud that our freshmen Scholars have the highest SAT scores and high school GPA of any honors program across the entire 64-campus SUNY system. However, these remarkable statistics do not just happen. It takes the support of the entire university to attract and retain such successful students and I want to thank President Stenger, Provost Nieman, and Vice-Provost Loewen for all they do to support the Scholars Program. Additionally, I want to thank the Scholars Program staff of Katherine Bouman and Mary LaCourt, our Scholars Mentors, Scholars Faculty, Scholars Council, and our Scholars Program Assistants for their contributions to the success of our program.

This academic year, we offered a record seventeen different Scholars courses! However, we offer enrichment beyond the classroom and as I write this letter, I am trying desperately to move out of last place in the Scholars Stock Market Game, which is just one of our Scholars Professionalism Week events. Despite this being the winter without snow, we took our first Scholars ski trip to Greek Peak and breathed a sigh of relief when everyone returned with all bones intact. In February, President Stenger and I hosted nearly 100 Scholars at a Binghamton Senators Hockey Game, and recently held our annual Scholars semi-formal.

As we begin to think about closing out the academic year, I am proud to announce that four of our Scholars have received the highest awards offered by SUNY and Binghamton University. Mallory Schmackpfeffer and Shirley Shum have been awarded the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, SUNY’s highest award; Kaitlin Biagiotti has been awarded the President's Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence, Binghamton’s highest award; and Tatiana Requijo has been awarded Honorable Mention - President's Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence.

In the pages that follow, we present articles on what some of our new graduates will be up to in the coming years. We also introduce to our readers one of the new initiatives our program has undertaken: The Guthrie Scholars Premedical Internship.

It has been another great year and I want to thank all of our Scholars and all those who support them at Binghamton University, at home, and beyond. To those who are graduating, I wish you luck in all of your future endeavors, and to the rest of you, I wish you a happy and healthy summer and I will see you in the fall!

Professor Ziegler
Professor William Ziegler
Executive Director, Binghamton University Scholars Program
Associate Professor, Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science
Principal Investigator, Federal Aviation Administration
Scholars Give Back: SCHL 227 and Beyond

By Martha Engle

As part of the Scholars Program, students are required to take a service learning course - SCHL 227: Leadership, Project Management, and Service - in the spring of their second year. Each student participated in a long term community service program of their choosing throughout the semester. In past years, students were able to sign up for a project from a list of preassigned sites. This year, after a restructuring of the course, students had the opportunity to choose their own sites, organizations whose work they are truly interested in and passionate about. Ciara Hanlon (’18) volunteers with Southern Tier Animal Rescue (STAR) every Saturday at an animal adoption drive. She “welcomes the opportunity to volunteer with an organization that [she] normally would not have gotten involved with.” STAR is only one of over 20 organizations that Scholars are volunteering with.

Scholars are equally involved in community service outside of the classroom. The Scholars Community Service Committee, headed by Glenn Avisado (’18), holds several events each month to help Scholars get involved in service. Past events include writing letters to veterans, a Thanksgiving can drive, and blanket-making for children in a hospital. Additionally, each month, Scholars serve lunch at a local soup kitchen through Soup and Sandwich Saturdays. Upcoming events include Relay for Life and helping with bingo at Willow Point Nursing Home.

Outside of the Program, Scholars are members of various organizations on campus that focus on philanthropy and social justice. Caleb Schwartz (’19) is the Education Chair of Peace Action, a grassroots organization that focuses on educating the public about current events and peace movements. In the past, Peace Action has raised money for causes including women’s education in the Middle East and helping Syrian refugees. Michael Darmohraj (’18) is a member of Theta Tau, Binghamton’s Professional Engineering Fraternity. Through this organization, Michael has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse. Caleb and Michael are two great examples of Scholars whose passion for service is woven throughout their lives. The Binghamton University Scholars have diverse areas of academic interest, but are all united by their desire to better the Binghamton community. ●
This past semester I was able to participate in the Guthrie pre-medical internship. This was the first year that the program has been offered through Binghamton University and I am glad that I was able to take part in it.

As part of this twelve credit internship, I spent my weeks at the Robert Packer Hospital and Guthrie Clinic, located in Sayre, Pennsylvania, about forty minutes west of Binghamton University. Included in the program were a meal plan and housing in the apartments the hospital has for on-call physicians.

The program was an incredible experience. It allowed me to spend hundreds of hours in a healthcare setting, seeing what doctors’ daily routines are truly like. I was able to shadow physicians in just about every specialty that you could think of. Monday through Wednesday I would shadow doctors in the operating room, clinic and hospital, and on Thursdays I worked on my research project. I chose to do a retrospective chart review, looking at the correlation between urgent care “frequent flyers” and their influenza vaccination status. The research department at Guthrie was terrific in assisting me the entire way as I worked on my project, which I presented at the culmination of the semester.

I believe that this opportunity is wonderful for helping students make decisions regarding their careers and for getting the experience that will help them stand out as an applicant to medical school. I would highly recommend it to any Scholar considering a career in the medical field!
SCHL 280: Istanbul - Caught In the Crossfire

By Rachel Kiesling

This semester, the Scholars Program planned a trip to Istanbul over spring break as part of one of the Scholars 280 courses. This course came into existence when Professor Kent Schull of the History Department, who had previously completed a similar program with honors students at another university, contacted the Scholars Program about teaching a course with a study abroad component to include taking a group of students to Istanbul. “I wanted students to be able to know what to appreciate and to make the city their own,” said Professor Schull, “I wanted them to be ready to experience it on a more meaningful level.” For this reason, students in the course were required to read a variety of scholarly articles, novels, and news articles about a range of aspects of the city, including history, art, culture, and religion.

Unfortunately, in mid-March, the trip to Istanbul was cancelled. According to Professor Schull, “The situation in Turkey has deteriorated in terms of security, with various terrorist organizations following through on threats, so we were unable to justify putting students into an area under active threat of terrorist activity.” Personally, I had mixed feelings about the trip’s cancellation. In terms of safety, I knew that it would be difficult for the school to justify sending students into the area, but I was still incredibly disappointed that the trip I had been looking forward to had been cancelled. The timing may not have been right this time, but I hope to be able to travel to Istanbul at some point in the near future.

Discovering the Turkish Perspective

By Samuel David Bravo

You may understand why I was very excited when I found out that the Scholars program was offering a course on Istanbul. I visited the city briefly during the summer, and left without being properly acquainted. This was an opportunity to study some history and hopefully visit again. It also didn’t hurt that it met a lot of my requirements.

Now that we are in the final weeks of class I am very glad that I signed up. It is clear that Dr. Kent Schull loves his job, and he has caused me to appreciate Istanbul for what it is. I learned about the Byzantines, the Ottomans, the Republic: cultures very different from my own. I learned that studying a city is complicated, history is messy, and sources should be handled with care. Most importantly, I learned about the value of critical thinking, and that studying the biases of our sources helps us understand their perspective. It makes me wonder, if I analyzed my own writing (which does not mean that I am one to write), what would I say about my biases and intentions? If I were a source, would I have a reliable perspective?

This class has its charms. We read a mystery novel set in the 1500s Ottoman Empire, learned basic Turkish, and discussed the historical precedents to current political issues, among other things. Dr. Schull invests a lot of his time to make the course enjoyable. If it is offered again I would highly recommend the class to anyone who loves learning. And if world events allow them to go see the sights as well, even better.
The Freshman Research Immersion Experience
By Zachary Halpern

I am a student in the new Computer Images and Acoustics Freshman Research Immersion (FRI) stream. The first semester of this program revolved around learning what exactly it means to be a researcher and how to critically analyze scholarly articles. Under the supervision of Professor Shaun Canavan, the twenty students in my research stream worked in groups to research a specific topic and present our findings to the class. My group worked on counting people in crowds using rgb-depth cameras. This project provided the students with an introduction to research. Our newest project revolves around calculating how tired a person is. We hope that our research could help determine if someone is too tired to properly operate a motor vehicle. It is our intent to publish our research findings. So far, the FRI program has provided me with incredibly valuable experiences.

The FRI Teaching Assistant Experience
By Maggie Taylor Fox

This time last year I wrote an article for the Scholars Magazine about my FRI experience and what I was looking forward to in the coming semester. A year later, I am now writing about the same course from the perspective of a TA.

During my first year at Binghamton University, I participated in the smart energy research stream. I studied the use of material science in energy storage. Before this program, I had only done experiments with predictable outcomes. I knew when I had completed them correctly. With the FRI program, this was not the case. The outcome of everything we did in the lab was unknown. This difference made me terrified to do anything on my own in a lab. My fear of failure and the unknown almost stopped me from wanting to continue to do lab work. However, I stuck with the program and after three semesters working in the FRI lab on my own experiments and eventually entering a lab of my own, I have come to terms with the fact that the unknown is what drives research forward in the first place.

As a TA, I now have a new set of freshmen standing where I stood a year ago and one thing is still the same, they all have a fear of failure and the unknown. My role this year is to help the students realize that the unknown is not meant to be scary, but instead something to look forward to. Hopefully by the end of their three semesters, they will see this to be true.
The Binghamton Nursing Experience

By Emily Venezia

Nursing is a unique major. For many students, their undergraduate years are spent in classrooms learning about subjects through lectures, textbooks, and exams. Nursing students, however, are actually immersed in the real world of nursing through clinical experience. While we do spend plenty of time in the classroom, we also devote 14 hours a week to working with registered nurses in local hospitals providing direct patient care. It can be overwhelming at times, especially when you are thrown into a new environment like the operating room with little preparation. The insight, exposure, and confidence a student gains through clinicals, though, is invaluable.

Throughout this semester, I have worked on the obstetrics floor of Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City. Having never even held a baby before, being responsible for the care of a newborn child and a post-partum mother was a bit intimidating to me. However, over the past month, I have gained confidence through repeated opportunities to perform newborn physical assessments, educate new moms on important aspects of child care, and observe registered nurses at work in the hospital setting. Now that I have been introduced to the field of obstetrics, I am definitely interested in entering this field after graduation. I have many more clinical rotations to experience throughout my remaining year at Binghamton University, and there are areas I still will not have seen by graduation, but I am definitely thankful for the chance to gain exposure to many different areas of nursing. It has opened my eyes and taught me more than I could have ever learned in a classroom.

The schedule of a nursing student is demanding. Clinicals often begin before 7:00am and last into the afternoon. Students may be required to travel to facilities as far away as Syracuse, and often there are assignments due within 24 hours of completing a clinical shift. Balancing the academic workload with other extracurricular activities can be difficult, but it can certainly be done. The challenge of balancing nursing school with the Scholars Program has been well worth it, as both have played a major role in shaping my time here at Binghamton University.
Many students choose to spend their first year of college joining various clubs to explore their interests outside of the classroom. Binghamton Scholars are some of the most engaged students on campus, taking part in many of the University’s 250+ clubs and organizations. Here are just a few of the ways that freshman Scholars have gotten involved both on and off campus.

Name: Zachary Halpern  
Involvement: Vestal EMS  
“I stumbled upon Vestal EMS through my RA and instantly applied. The atmosphere of an ambulance bay was just the thing I was looking for, having the rush of adrenaline through my system when the lights are flashing and sirens are blaring, while also giving back to the community in helping people who are in need of medical assistance.”

Name: Jordan Dundas  
Involvement: Model UN  
“I joined Model UN because I really enjoy debating and love international affairs. I did Model UN in high school and loved it, so I wanted to check out the club here. At most of our meetings we go over parliamentary procedure that is used at actual conferences and debate current world issues, and we’re set to attend a Model UN Conference in April at NYU!”

Name: Jessica Rubin  
Involvement: PEER  
“PEER is a club where students meet up in groups of 10-15 to discuss what is going on in their lives. This gives students the opportunity to build their networks and make new friends. The conversations we have at PEER are confidential, so we have created a safe space for students to talk about their families, friends, and any problems they may have. We are currently working on becoming SA chartered!”

Name: Christopher Thompson  
Involvement: Outdoors Club  
“I joined the Outdoors Club because I love all things outdoors. In this club we take weekly trips such as hikes and camping trips all around the local area. What’s great about being part of this club is that I am surrounded by people with the same interests as me and it was a great way for me to make friends.”

Name: Wyndham Stopford  
Involvement: The Binghamton Crosbys  
“I originally auditioned for a cappella on campus because singing was something I always enjoyed doing and joining a group gave me the opportunity to explore that interest further in a casual but still productive environment. Although still a fairly new member of the group I rehearse with the Crosbys for about six hours a week and also perform with them at events both within the school and locally in Binghamton.”
Scholars Travel Abroad

Lindsey Boody ('18) spends a semester at sea

Lindsey Boody ('18) in India

Abigail Giles ('17) volunteering over winter break in Nicaragua

Students show their Scholars pride in the Bahamas!
Itai Ferber ('16)

What is your favorite event or memory from your years in the Scholars Program?

I don't know if I have an absolute favorite event or memory, but I really enjoyed all of the trips I've gotten to take throughout my time in the Program. I've gotten to enjoy two trips to New York City and one to Philadelphia, and I had a great time exploring the cities on all three. That's not to say that local trips haven't been enjoyable, too — the hikes at Buttermilk Falls and the night trip to a corn maze during my sophomore year with some freshman students remain some of my most memorable trips.

What is your favorite Scholars class that you took and why?

My favorite Scholars course was Evolutionary Psychology. I loved the subject matter, and that I could explore a field very far from my own, but could still find ways it was related to my area of study like genetic/evolutionary programming, artificial intelligence, evolutionary strategies, etc. I found discussions really interesting, and I think, overall, it really summarized my experience in the academic side of the Scholars program: expanding my horizons through interesting courses in subject matters far from my other requirements.

Sophie Gamer ('16)

Cell Molecular Biology

What is your favorite event or memory from your years in the Scholars Program?

My favorite memory is of a very spontaneous chain of events during my freshman year. My friends and I wanted to celebrate Galentine’s Day, which is the day before Valentine’s Day and serves to celebrate your gals! A couple of us spent a night making individualized invitations for each of the girls in the Scholars living community, and hanging the decorations on their doors. We baked a bunch of delicious and extravagant treats, and decorated the social lounge on our floor. It was a great party! At least twenty of us were there, and I really think it...
strengthened the sense of community between us Scholars girls!

What was your favorite Scholars class that you took and why?

I took Of Wolves and Myths with Professor Catalano, which was incredible. We read books about the relationships between humans and wolves, some fictional and some factual, and discussed our own role in wolf conservation. Professor Catalano did a really wonderful job of fostering intelligent and in-depth discussions about environmentalism and ethics, which are things that usually do not come up in my classes. I was really grateful to get to know him as a professor. I also really enjoyed the combination of science, literature, and philosophy in one course. I was allowed to explore unknown intellectual territory in a supportive space, which was powerful.

What is the biggest impact the Scholars Program has had on your college experience?

The Scholars Program has always been a huge support system for me at Binghamton. I think the most important tool that the Scholars have provided me is the opportunity to explore what makes me thrive personally and academically. As a student mentor, I loved being able to connect with my students to help them in social and academic terms. I feel the same way about being on Scholars Council; I like to be a leader and I want to help students connect. Academically and professionally, taking Scholars 227 opened the door to one of my most meaningful experiences in Binghamton’s community. Through that course I was assigned to work with The Magic Paintbrush Program, an organization that works with individuals with special needs and their caregivers to find creative solutions for their goals. Later they hired me and I have had an awesome time working with them!

I know that if I ever need help with anything around the University, I am covered! The Scholars Program has always shown enthusiasm for my accomplishments, and recently I was awarded the Presidential Scholarship for Community Involvement through the program.

What are your future plans?

I have been learning French since I was in middle school, so I would really love to spend time working in a French-speaking country. I am also passionate about women’s rights and women’s health, so I am looking into a career in healthcare that will let me combine my love of traveling, the French language, and women’s empowerment! I feel very lucky that I am able to explore my interests and access my potential, and I want to help others do the same. It is very important to me to seek out experiences that are challenging and unfamiliar, which is what I plan to do after graduation. The world has so much to offer, and I am in a great position to begin exploring!

Eliza Gellis (’16)

What is your favorite memory or event from your years in the Scholars Program?

I would say my favorite Scholars memories would be all the “field trips” we took, particularly to NYC, Philly, and hiking in Ithaca. It’s always fun to get off-campus and explore.

What was your favorite Scholars class and why?

My favorite class was definitely Ghosts in American Culture with Libby Tucker. The subject was so fun and unusual; it was a joy to come to class every day.
She’s such an incredible professor and I think she does a great job relaying the intricacies of folklore’s cultural significance to students in a clear and accessible way.

**What was your favorite Scholars class and why?**

Philanthropy and Civil Society was my favorite Scholars class because donating $10,000 to local charities was an unbelievable opportunity to help the Binghamton area. Also, Professor David Campbell is one of the best professors I have had at Binghamton.

**What is the biggest impact the Scholars Program has had on your college experience?**

The Scholars Art Gallery has had the greatest effect on me in terms of my experience at Binghamton. Founding the gallery with Professor Ziegler and watching it grow under Assistant Director Katherine Bouman’s and my time here has been an incredibly rewarding experience. When I first started out, we only got a few submissions, and within just a couple of years we’re getting more submissions than we can take in. It’s always meaningful to know that you’ve started something that will continue beyond your time.

**What are your future plans?**

I'm planning on attending graduate school to pursue an MA and PhD.

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**Nick Doran ('17)**

*Economics*

**What is your favorite memory or event from your years in the Scholars Program?**

I don’t have one specific favorite memory or event, but I really enjoyed all of the smaller events like March Madness, ice skating and the Scholars formal.

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**What is the biggest impact the Scholars Program has had on your college experience?**

Living in the learning community had the biggest impact on me because I met my best friends at college through it.

**What are your future plans?**

I will be completing my Master of Public Administration here at Binghamton next year. After that, I am hoping to go work in the public sector doing something in fiscal policy or financial management.

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**Scholars Graduates: Where Are They Going?**

- Apple
- AmeriCorps
- Bloomberg
- Columbia University
- JPMorgan Chase
- NYU School of Law
- Purdue University
- Westchester Medical Center
- Xerox
The information below provides various statistical data about the Binghamton University Scholars Program Class of 2019 including demographics and test scores.

The Class of 2019 came in comprised of 147 students. Of those:
- 65 are Male (44.2%)
- 82 are Female (55.7%)
- 12 are from Out-of-State (8.2%)
- 135 are from In-State (91.8%)

The distribution of Scholars across Binghamton's academic schools is roughly the same as that of the university as a whole:

Finally, here is the admissions profile for our newest group of Scholars. The following statistics are averages for the class of 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average High School GPA: 98.4</th>
<th>SAT Scores</th>
<th>ACT Scores</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>Low 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>Median 32</td>
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<tr>
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<td>High 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>1435</td>
<td>Average 32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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These scores are significantly higher than Binghamton's overall GPA and test scores, which reflects on the high standard the Binghamton University Scholars Program strives to maintain. As the university as a whole becomes more competitive, the Scholars program will be sure to follow and have even more incredible class profiles.
Faculty Profile: Dr. David Campbell
By Jung Park

Professor David Campbell, Chair of the Department of Administration, is not only an excellent teacher, but also a mentor who encourages students to think. He inspires students to think about their values and what constitutes an impact, and allows students to come up with the answer to those insightful questions. Clearly, Professor Campbell’s care for students can be derived from what he believes is his long term goal and success; he hopes that his career makes an impact on students to think about giving back and participating in public service.

Currently, Professor Campbell does research on nonprofit organizations. He has been published in the “Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly,” a top journal for nonprofit research. Professor Campbell’s research measures the performance of nonprofits in their effectiveness to help the consumer and fulfill the goals of the donors. Professor Campbell teaches a Scholars class that is funded by the Learning by Giving Foundation, a nonprofit run by a member of the Buffet family. He receives $10,000 from the foundation each year and allows students in his Scholars class to come up with ways to best utilize the money and create the biggest impact on the community. He says that he loves to teach and also learn from his students as they offer different insight on issues in nonprofit management. His favorite part of the class is the awards ceremony at the end when the students present the money to local nonprofits that they have chosen. He enjoys seeing the effort the students put into making informed decisions using the skills they develop throughout the semester. In years past, the class has given to organizations including Mom’s House, Family Planning of South Central New York, the Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse, and the Magic Paintbrush Project.

Professor Campbell loves Binghamton University. He believes that Binghamton is a public university where students from diverse backgrounds come to create a unique class. He advises students to be patient, because life is about figuring yourself out and that takes a considerable amount of time. Professor Campbell is a mentor to many Scholars at Binghamton University and is beloved by his mentees.

Organizations that Professor Campbell’s Philanthropy course has donated to:

- Kopernik Observatory and Science Center
- Southern Tier Alternative Therapies
- Family Enrichment Network
- SOS Shelter
- HOPE Dispensary
- Center for Employment Opportunities
- Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse
- Family Planning of South Central New York
- Mom’s House
- VINES
Among the unique Scholars courses taught this semester was “Plastics: Boon and Bane” with Chemistry instructor Dr. Rebecca Kissling. The course highlighted the numerous roles of plastics in the modern world as well as the vast array of different plastics and where they come from. Dr. Kissling encourages her students to be conscious of where everyday conveniences come from, what plastics really mean to us, and the impact of plastics on the environment. Discussion topics ranged from the many ways polymers are used in everyday life - from cell phone cases, to water bottles, to prosthetics- to the impacts of our habits with consumables on our overall energy consumption. Additionally, the class examined ways to minimize waste and the potential methods to reuse and recycle plastics. The class even made its very own glow-in-the-dark slime!

“Before the class started, I thought that learning about plastics three times a week was going to be really boring,” admits Nurit Haberman (’19), “But Dr. Kissling’s quirky and energetic personality makes learning about plastics genuinely fun and interesting.”

This is Dr. Kissling’s first year as an instructor for the Scholars Program having taught “Thinking Like Leonardo Di Vinci” in the fall for incoming Scholars. Dr. Kissling, who received her undergraduate degree in Geology from Binghamton University, has been teaching Chemistry at Binghamton since 2003. Prior to returning to Binghamton, Dr. Kissling earned her PhD in chemistry from UNC, Chapel Hill and then made her way around the United States, living in Hawaii, New Orleans, Florida, and Kansas. While she currently teaches Organic Chemistry, she has taught Organic Synthesis, Physical Organic Chemistry, and senior seminars. Dr. Kissling likes teaching smaller Scholars classes, as she enjoys watching students interact with one another, talking and discovering their common interests.

Faculty Profile: Dr. Rebecca Kissling
By Miriam Blumenthal

Students in SCHL 127 - a course taught by Dr. Kissling - go bowling in the Old Union
I had the opportunity to interview Binghamton Catering Director, Pawel Nowacki. Nowacki, who is originally from Poland, has worked for Binghamton for 28 years! He is a huge asset to the Scholars Program and helps plan many Scholars Program events. I sat down with Nowacki to learn more about his past and his work at Binghamton University.

Katherine Loomba: Do you have any special interests or hobbies?

Pawel Nowacki: I enjoy music, history, international travels, and domestic and global politics.

KL: How did you get involved with the food industry?

PN: I graduated from a hotel and restaurant business college in Warsaw. Food and hospitality have always been my passion. I have been able to learn about different hospitality styles while working in Poland, Bulgaria, England, Norway, and Sweden!

KL: What is a typical day for you like as Senior Catering Director at Sodexo?

PN: The position is very challenging and complex because I must know the customers and their expectations. Every single day is something completely and entirely different. Challenges provide me with opportunities to better my role as Catering Director. It’s very dynamic and I thrive on it!

KL: Of all of the organizations you could have worked at, why did you choose Binghamton University?

PN: This particular campus offers so many opportunities besides employment such as access to vibrant, innovative and diverse programs and people. Also, the surroundings here are similar to my native Poland. These things combined, I knew from the very first day that Binghamton was the place to be.

KL: What is the best part of your job?

PN: I sincerely enjoy building new relationships with people here. Most of all, I enjoy the superb work environment this University offers, including the significant mission to increase diversity. Being exposed to different customers’ needs and values stimulates my imagination and creativity, not only in regards to food, but also customer service.

KL: Is it true that you once saved the life of a choking woman?

PN: Yes, safety plays such an important role on this campus, as well as a significant part of the company culture for Sodexo. Therefore, customer safety is always in the forefront of my mind. Saving that woman’s life reminded me of how fragile our lives are.

KL: What do you think is the most undervalued place or activity in Binghamton that students should check out?

PN: Sports events, specifically during basketball season.

KL: Who or what do you owe your success to?

PN: I took it upon myself, at a young age, to take responsibility for my life. I believe my success is a direct result of my decisions and follow through. At the same time, I also owe my success to the entire campus community, as I’m inspired every day to be a better version of myself!

KL: What advice do you have to students about living a happy and successful life?

PN: My advice to students on how to live a happy and successful life is my favorite motto: “Life happens outside your comfort zone.”
Contributor Profiles

Jasper Andrew ('17), 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.

Miriam Blumenthal ('19), “Faculty Profile: Dr. Rebecca Kissling”
Miriam is a chemistry major and hopes to one day become a doctor. Unlike the majority of Binghamton students, she is from Skokie, Illinois. She enjoys travelling and spending her free time with family and friends.

Samuel David Bravo ('17), “Discovering the Turkish Perspective”
Samuel David Bravo is a Computer Science and Mathematics major. He loves to code and fold origami.

Martha Engle ('17), Editor-in-Chief, “Scholars Give Back: SCHL 227 and Beyond”, “Freshmen Engage in Extracurricular Interests”
Martha is a junior majoring in Psychology and French Linguistics. She works for the Scholars Program as a Program Assistant and is a member of the Scholars Social Committee. Additionally, she is the Public Relations and Multimedia Chair of Peace Action BU. In her free time, she likes to do puzzles and bake apple pies.

Maggie Taylor Fox ('18), “The FRI Teaching Assistant Experience”
Maggie is a sophomore studying chemistry with a minor in education. She is looking to do more research in the smart energy field before becoming a high school chemistry teacher. On campus, she volunteers with a local girl scout troop, is part of the education minor steering committee, Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, The Jones Research Group and the FRI program.

Zachary is a freshman studying computer science. He has been programming for the past 10 or so years and has run numerous online games for children. He plans on specializing his degree to focus heavily on the security and encryption aspect, as the Internet isn’t as secure as it should be. In addition, he is hoping to continue his EMS work and become a certified EMT this summer.

Rachel Kiesling ('17), “SCHL 280: Istanbul - Caught in the Crossfire”
Rachel is a junior mathematics and chemistry major from Waltham, MA. She is also the Social Chair of the Binghamton University Scholars Council. In her spare time, she likes to read, do crossword puzzles, and shop for shoes.

Katherine Loomba ('17), “Sitting Down With Pawel Nowacki, Sodexo Catering Director”
Katherine is a junior neuroscience major from Westchester, NY. She is involved with Women’s Club Soccer and Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad.

Lauren Nardacci ('17), “Statistics for the Class of 2019”
Lauren Nardacci is a junior from Albany, NY majoring in biomedical engineering. On campus, she is a Scholars Program Assistant and an undergraduate research assistant in the Biomedical Nanotechnology and Molecular Imaging Lab. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends, playing tennis, basketball, and board games.

Jung Park ('18), “Faculty Profile: Dr. David Campbell”
Jung is a sophomore at Binghamton University and is majoring in Computer Engineering as well Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, for a dual degree. Outside of academia, he has two jobs on campus as a tour guide and as a student manager. He is a Binghamton Scholar as well as a PwC Scholar at Binghamton University and participates in those programs as much as he can.

Emily Venezia ('17), “The Binghamton Nursing Experience”, “Outstanding Senior Scholars”
Emily is a junior in the Decker School of Nursing. She has been very involved in the Scholars Program, as a Student Mentor last year, and currently as a Program Assistant. Though she doesn’t have much free time as a nursing student, when she does, she enjoys playing intramural sports, hanging out with friends, and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

Caroline Weiss ('17), “The Guthrie Scholars Pre-Medical Internship Prepares Students to Become Health Experts”
Caroline is an Integrative Neuroscience major from Altamont, New York.

Emma Williams ('19), Contributor
Emma is a theater major, Harry Potter aficionado, Broadway geek, and lover of all things baking. She is a member of Hinman Production Company. If you ask her to do something, she probably can’t, because she has rehearsal.