

**Fall 2023**  
**Colorado State**  
**University**



*Live Learn Grow*

**University Honors**  
**Program**

Established 1957

**Honors Graduate**  
**Recognition Ceremony**  
**December 15, 2023**

Lory Student Center Ballroom  
Reception to follow

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Colorado State University acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations and peoples. This was also a site of trade, gathering, and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are spoken and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional homelands are renewed and reaffirmed.

CSU is founded as a land grant institution, and we accept that our mission must encompass access to education and inclusion. And, significantly, our founding came at a dire cost to Native Nations and peoples whose land this university was built upon. This acknowledgment is the education and inclusion we must practice in recognizing our institutional history, responsibility, and commitment.



The goal of the Honors Program is simple: to challenge the student to excel in and beyond the classroom. The University Honors Program encourages the student to create an academic experience that is fully aligned with the student's educational, personal, and professional goals.

### **Honors Designations**

The University Honors Scholar program is designed for outstanding students who wish to fulfill a majority of their general education requirements through innovative interdisciplinary seminars.

Many academic departments allow students to participate in the Honors Program through the Discipline Honors Scholar program. This option is well suited for outstanding students who have completed many general education requirements and wish to focus on upper division Honors experiences in their majors.

# Order of Ceremony

Welcome and Introductory Remarks  
Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director

Land Acknowledgement

Introduction of Platform Party and  
Acknowledgements  
Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director

Student Gratitude  
Katie Nieuwlandt, Irl Paulalengan,  
Dalia Vargas-Jurado

Introduction of Graduation Speaker  
Emily Morgan, Assistant Director

Ceremony Address  
Leah Holz, Honors  
Faculty of the Year

History of Honors  
Introduction of Provost  
Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director

Conferring of University Honors Scholars  
Dr. Jan Nerger, Provost

Awarding Medallions  
Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director  
Dr. Tom Siller, Vice Provost for  
Undergraduate Affairs

Reading of Names  
Rachel Tate, Honors Academic Coordinator

Closing Remarks  
Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Honors Graduate Recognition Ceremony. Founded in 1957, the University Honors Program is in its 66th year. Starting with 15 students, the program has grown to nearly 1,800 students.

We recognize 55 students who have completed the requirements of the Honors program. Those students graduating as University Honors Scholars have completed 25-26 credits consisting of one of two curricula: five Honors seminars and two Honors courses in the major or two Honors seminars and 4-5 Honors courses in the major.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director  
Emily Morgan, Assistant Director

### **Leah Holz, Ceremony Address**

Dr. Leah Holz has been an Instructor at CSU since 2019. Before coming to CSU, Leah worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Franklin and Marshall College. She taught and studied at CU Boulder, where she completed a Ph.D. in French Literature in 2018 with Graduate Certificates in Women and Gender Studies and College Teaching. Her M.A. is in French Studies from the University of Oregon and her B.A. is in French and Music from Gettysburg College. Leah enjoys teaching a variety of courses in Honors, including courses on artistic representations of Paris, contemporary literary “selfies,” and wandering.

## **HONORS STAFF**

Dr. Shawn Bingham, Director

Emily Morgan, Assistant Director

Shivon Costin, Lead Honors Academic Coordinator

Melanie Nichols, Program Coordinator

Rachel Tate, Honors Advisor & Track 2 Coordinator

Lori Williams, Program Assistant

Kimberly Ross, Administrative Assistant

## **HONORS FACULTY, FALL 2023**

Joseph Brown

Carl Burghardt

Lee Cooper

Ashley Davies

Tanya Dewey

Joanna Doxey

Andrea Duffy

Mary J Elkins

Kevin Foskin

Frances Glycenfer

Aparna Gollapudi

Leah Holz

Alyson Huff

Keith Jagers

John Kitchens

Jen Krafchick

Carmen Lopez-Ramirez

Anne Marie Merline

Don Mykles

Dan Obluda

Carlos Olivo-Delgado

Jana Raadik-Cottrell

Justin Reeves

Doug Sheflin

Abigail Shupe

Pam Vaughan Knaus

Nicole Vieira

Emily Wilson

Sarah Zwick-Tapley

## Candidates for University Honors Scholar

- Brianna Alers**, Psychology major and Chemistry minor with Mind, Brain and Behavior concentration  
Thesis title: *Synesthetic Influences on Perception and Interpretation of Heat Maps*  
Thesis adviser: Katherine Hebert, Psychology
- Grace Babcock**, Psychology major and Global Studies minor with General Psychology concentration  
Thesis title: *Redesigning CSU's Alcohol Education Program*  
Thesis adviser: Martha Amberg, Psychology
- Meghan Bodman**, Biological Science major with Biological Science concentration  
Thesis title: *Intelligently Designed or Naturally Derived? A Scientific Discourse on Matters of Creation and the Natural World*  
Thesis adviser: Aaron Sholders, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Emma Bryer**, Biological Science major with Biological Science concentration  
Thesis title: *The Shifting Perspective on the Severity of Plastic Pollution: A Look into the Internal Biological Response to Microplastic Invasion on a Global Scale*  
Thesis adviser: Kathryn Wilsterman, Biology
- Whitney Burleigh**, Civil Engineering major  
Thesis title: *Reintroduction of Native Trout: Aquatic Organism Passage on Bennett Creek*  
Thesis adviser: Christopher Thornton, Civil Engineering
- Gabby Carpenter**, Business Administration major and Political Science minor with Accounting concentration  
Thesis title: *A Review of the United States Banking System and the Effects of Bank Regulations, Regulatory Agencies, and Laws*  
Thesis adviser: Eric Lohwasser, Accounting
- Kyla Carpenter**, Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology major with Wildlife Biology concentration  
Thesis title: *Ideal Habitat Connectivity and Protection in the Context of Urban Conservation Issues With Florida Panthers (*Puma concolor coryi*)*  
Thesis adviser: Tanya Dewey, Biology
- Aidan Chesmore**, English major with Creative Writing concentration  
Thesis title: *Haunted: An Anthology*  
Thesis adviser: Todd Mitchell, English
- Ally Claar**, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability major and Mathematics minor  
Thesis title: *Decisions for Xeriscaping Based on Community and Environment*  
Thesis adviser: Steven Conrad, Systems Engineering
- Christian Conrady**, Mechanical Engineering major  
Thesis title: *Autonomous Navigation using Route Optimization through a 2D Occupancy Grid*  
Thesis adviser: Soheil Fatehiboroujeni, Mechanical Engineering
- Rebecca Crook**, Equine Science major and Business Administration minor with Entrepreneurship certificate  
Thesis title: *An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Immunocontraceptives in the Management of Wild Horse and Burro Populations in the United States*  
Thesis adviser: David Denniston, Animal Sciences
- Matthew Cullis**, Biomedical Sciences major with Anatomy and Physiology concentration  
Thesis title: *Scapular Movement Model*  
Thesis adviser: Rebecca Wiltgen, Biomedical Sciences
- April Dossett**, Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology major and Statistics minor with Wildlife Biology concentration  
Thesis title: *Thermal Videography Analysis of Bat Emergence*  
Thesis adviser: Robert Schorr, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

**Cristin Ensor**, Business Administration major with Marketing concentration and International Business certificate

Thesis title: *Designer Formal Wear: Do personality traits drive consumers' willingness to spend money?*

Thesis adviser: D Todd Donavan, Marketing

**Erin Flaherty**, Biomedical Sciences major with Microbiology and Infectious Disease concentration

Thesis title: *Use of Elacridar Hydrochloride Against Chronic Wasting Disease Infection in Cells*

Thesis adviser: Glenn Telling, Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology

**Sydney Fugate**, Microbiology major

Thesis title: *Drinking Water as a Potential Vehicle for Transmission and Infection with Mycobacterium Abscessus.*

Thesis adviser: Mercedes Gonzalez-Juarrero, Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology

**James Gorder**, Biochemistry major and Biomedical Sciences minor with Health and Medical Sciences concentration

Thesis title: *Examining Medical Race Science from a Sociological and Biochemical lens*

Thesis adviser: Eric Ross, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Kiera Grover**, Health and Exercise Science major and Chemistry minor with Sports Medicine concentration

Thesis title: *A Guide to General Chemistry*

Thesis adviser: Kerry MacFarland, Chemistry

**Marisol Gutierrez Gutier**, Art major with Art Education concentration

Thesis title: *Identity Education Unit*

Thesis adviser: Ting Fang Chien, Art and Art History

**Caleigh Haid**, Mechanical Engineering major

Thesis title: *Conversion of the CSU Rocket Test Stand to Liquid Fuel System*

Thesis adviser: Bret Windom, Mechanical Engineering

**Katelyn Johnson**, Biomedical Sciences major with Anatomy and Physiology concentration

Thesis title: *Cardio-Land*

Thesis adviser: Carolyn Meyer, Biomedical Sciences

**Riley Krudop**, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability major and Spanish minor

Thesis title: *A Compilation of Local Sustainability Resources for the Residents of Fort Collins*

Thesis adviser: Jamie Dahl, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

**Madison Kubala**, Music major with Music Education concentration

Thesis title: *Travel the World in Song, Volume 1: Traditional Irish Fiddling for the Young Violinist*

Thesis adviser: Erik Johnson, School of Music Theatre Dance

**Bailey Latka**, Chemical and Biological Engineering major with Spanish concentration

Thesis title: *The Upscaling Process of the Metakaryote Cell Line*

Thesis adviser: Minerva Piffarerio, Chemical Engineering

**Cameron Leith**, Psychology major with General Psychology concentration

Thesis title: *Art and the LGBTQ+ Community*

Thesis adviser: Leah Holz, University Honors Program

**Chieko Link**, Biological Science major and Spanish minor with Biological Science concentration

Thesis title: *A Children's Book on Emotional Coping Mechanisms to Combat Binge Eating Disorder and to Prevent the Development of an Unhealthy Relationship with Food*

Thesis adviser: Dana Masden, English

**Jordan Mahaffey**, Sociology major and German minor with Criminology and Criminal Justice concentration

Thesis title: *Analysis of Human Trafficking*

Thesis adviser: Jeffrey Nowacki, Sociology

- Anais Markwood**, English major and Arabic Studies minor with Writing, Rhetoric and Literacy concentration  
Thesis title: *Veiled Beauties and Vicious Brutes: Gender in Orientalist Literature*  
Thesis adviser: Aparna Gollapudi, English
- Maya Matsubara**, Biomedical Sciences major with Anatomy and Physiology concentration  
Thesis title: *Mental Health Status and Possible Remedies for CSU Student Athletes*  
Thesis adviser: Brian Butki, Health and Exercise Sciences
- Cavan McCabe**, Natural Resource Tourism major and Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor with Natural Resource Tourism concentration  
Thesis title: *Identities and Oceans: A Regional Analysis of America's Attitudes and Beliefs Surrounding Environmental and Personal Ethics*  
Thesis adviser: Stuart Cottrell, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources
- Kylie McDonald**, Biomedical Sciences major and Chemistry minor with Anatomy and Physiology concentration  
Thesis title: *Bye Bye Bacteria: Understanding Bacterial Infections and Antibiotic Use*  
Thesis adviser: Jennifer McLean, Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology
- Sarah Mendus**, Horticulture major and Creative Writing minor with Controlled Environment Horticulture concentration  
Thesis title: *Underground*  
Thesis adviser: Devon Fulford, English
- Katie Nieuwlandt**, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources major and Conservation Biology minor  
Thesis title: *My Nature Guide: An Explorative Nature Activity Book for Denver Youth*  
Thesis adviser: Anne Scott, University Honors Program
- Irl Paulalengan**, Journalism and Media Communication major and Mathematics minor  
Thesis title: *The Voices We Hear: Discovering People's Identity Through Self-Perception, Personal Narrative, and Collective Cultural Identity*  
Thesis adviser: Matthew Gohl, Journalism and Media Communication
- Alejandra Quesada-Stoner**, Biomedical Sciences major and Ethnic Studies minor with Anatomy and Physiology concentration  
Thesis title: *Creating a Research-to-Practice Tool for Making Cultural Adaptations to Family-Based Intervention Programs for Latine Immigrant Families*  
Thesis adviser: Nathaniel Riggs, Human Development and Family Studies
- Kayleigh Rees**, Biomedical Sciences major with Environmental Public Health concentration  
Thesis title: *An Evaluation of Disinfection Methods at a Local Daycare*  
Thesis adviser: Debbie Lee, Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences
- Molly Ring**, Biomedical Sciences major with Microbiology and Infectious Disease concentration  
Thesis title: *An Investigation into Public West Nile Virus (WNV) Risk Perception and Protective Behaviors Throughout Northern Colorado.*  
Thesis adviser: Nicole Kelp, Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology
- Jade Roberts**, English major with Creative Writing concentration  
Thesis title: *A Deep Dive into You*  
Thesis adviser: Matthew Cooperman, English
- Jordan Robinson**, Biomedical Sciences major and Applied Data Science minor with Environmental Public Health concentration  
Thesis title: *R Data Package of Hurricane and West Nile Virus Data*  
Thesis adviser: Georgiana Anderson, Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences
- Abigail Robitaille**, Communication major and Legal Studies minor  
Thesis title: *The Degree in which Effects of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict are Impacting Support for Ukraine*  
Thesis adviser: Sarah Zwick-Tapley, University Honors Program

- David Rohrbaugh**, Computer Engineering major and Computer Science minor  
Thesis title: *Senior Design Project: ECE Student Projects Lab*  
Thesis adviser: Edwin Chong, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Abigail Rupp**, Biomedical Sciences major with Anatomy and Physiology concentration  
Thesis title: *I'll Remember Grandma*  
Thesis adviser: Alyson Welker, English
- Cole Shepherd**, Biochemistry major and Physics minor with American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology concentration  
Thesis title: *Colorimetric or Fluorometric Assay for DNA-Loaded Protein Crystals*  
Thesis adviser: Christopher Snow, Chemical Engineering
- Maliek Swain**, Biochemistry major with Health and Medical Sciences concentration  
Thesis title: *Phytomchemicals: A New Power for Chemoprevention*  
Thesis adviser: Brian Kalet, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Jack Thompson**, Biological Science major with Biological Science concentration  
Thesis title: *Gross National Happiness: The Four Roads Not Taken*  
Thesis adviser: Ursula Quillmann, Forest and Rangeland Stewardship
- Tori Thompson**, Languages, Literatures and Cultures major and Zoology minor with French concentration  
Thesis title: *An Analysis of the Breeding, Training, and Impact of Service Dogs*  
Thesis adviser: Leah Holz, University Honors Program
- Malei Tipton**, Animal Science major with Teacher Development concentration  
Thesis title: *Planting the Seeds of Change: A Community Garden Business Plan*  
Thesis adviser: Jennifer Bennett, Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Heather Tran**, Psychology major with General Psychology concentration  
Thesis title: *Motivations and Attitudes behind Student Athletes*  
Thesis adviser: Danielle Gardner, Psychology
- Dalia Vargas-Jurado**, Biological Science major and Chemistry minor with Biological Science concentration  
Thesis title: *Coping and Learning Through Literature: A Creative Tool to Help Children Cope with Difficult Subjects.*  
Thesis adviser: Angela Lewis, School of Education
- Annie Weiler**, Political Science major and Business Administration minor with U.S. Government, Law and Policy concentration and Entrepreneurship certificate  
Thesis title: *Examining the Consequences of Legal Illiteracy for Young People*  
Thesis adviser: Angelina Robinson, Dean of Liberal Arts
- Nathan Williams**, Forest and Rangeland Stewardship major with Forest Fire Science concentration  
Thesis title: *Comparing The American Wildfire Crisis Strategy to the Canadian Wildfire Strategy International Perspectives on Fire Management and Barriers to International Collaboration*  
Thesis adviser: Courtney Schultz, Forest and Rangeland Stewardship
- Grant Willsie**, Mechanical Engineering major  
Thesis title: *A Solution for Canine Patellar Luxation*  
Thesis adviser: Douglas Fankell, Mechanical Engineering
- Laramie Woods**, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability major and Environmental and Natural Resource Economics minor  
Thesis title: *Northern Colorado Farmers' Perspectives and Barriers on Soil Health Practices*  
Thesis adviser: Paige Stanley, Soil and Crop Sciences
- Brenna Wright**, Biomedical Sciences major and Chemistry minor with Environmental Public Health concentration  
Thesis title: *Gross Alpha and Beta Attenuation and Imposter Syndrome in Academia*  
Thesis adviser: Ralf Sudowe, Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences
- Corban Yeakley**, Electrical Engineering major with Electrical Engineering concentration  
Thesis title: *Senior Design: Machine Learning and Image Processing for Snow Research*  
Thesis adviser: Branislav Notaros, Electrical and Computer Engineering