Schreyer Honors College

Mission

The mission of the Schreyer Honors College is to promote:

Achieving academic excellence with integrity

Building a global perspective, and

Creating opportunities for leadership and civic engagement

Vision

To educate men and women who will have an important and ethical influence in the world, affecting academic, professional, civic, social, and business outcomes. To improve educational practice and to continue to be recognized as a leading force in honors education nationwide.

Schreyer Honors College is consistently ranked as one of the nation’s top public honors colleges and is widely recognized as one of the foremost undergraduate programs in the United States. The honors experience at Penn State offers small class size and one-to-one access to distinguished faculty, all within one of the world’s leading research institutions. The small living/learning community within a larger institution offers individualized support and countless opportunities, including mentoring connections with Penn State alumni who are now industry leaders.

Sebastien Kraft

Journalism Major, Political Sciences Minor

Filmmaker, Anchor, Penn State Network News

“Vis-à-vis” is a film about a French student trying to adapt to life as an American college student.

The Schreyer Honors College Scholar who wrote, directed, and produced the film, Sebastien Kraft, can relate. The native of Paris, France, who grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, used his own life as source material for his protagonist’s story about assimilating to the United States.

“She goes on a spiritual journey and finds that you have to let people in sometimes. You have to be willing to trust people and really express yourself to share what you have with others, which is the most important thing you can do.”

Kraft, a journalism major and political science minor in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, has experience both in front of the camera, as an anchor for Penn State Network News, and behind it, as a filmmaker.

His documentary, “Shades of Light: The Refugee Crisis Abroad,” followed two refugees from Mauritania and Yemen, along with Kraft’s great aunt and Amnesty International member Marie-Edith Douillard, through Paris. It was an official selection at the Dunedin International Film Festival in Dunedin, Florida, and won best documentary at the Great Message International Film Festival in India.

“The goal of my film was to depict the paradox between the City of Lights and the plight of the refugees. I felt like I was doing the right thing in shedding some light on the story.”

Kraft had previously created documentaries about gun licensing and about the Keystone

pipeline. His long-term goals include international reporting and more documentary work. He strives to find impactful stories that allow his viewers to relate to his subjects.

“There are a lot of stories to be told.”

Kriston Ramdass

Aerospace Engineering Major

Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Program

Kriston Ramdass lives for the “little moments of euphoria” that can only come from a breakthrough in research he has been conducting for days or weeks or even years.

“The point of research is you’re working toward a hypothesis, and you may not know whether the hypothesis you’re working toward is valid or not, whether it’ll come true or not, and it’s that same method and ideology. You’re working toward the end product, and the journey toward that end product is what gives me enjoyment.”

Ramdass has problem-solved in a variety of environments since joining the Schreyer Honors College. He spent eight months on a co-op working for the failure investigation department at Moog, trouble-shooting the more than 140 thrusters on the Orion spacecraft’s European Service Module.

During a trip to Honduras as part of Penn State’s chapter of Global Public Health Brigades, Ramdass and his fellow students mapped out and helped to install pipeline systems to help provide local communities with water that was miles away from their homes.

Ramdass hopes to eventually become a professor, which is one of the reasons he applied for the integrated undergraduate/graduate program that will allow him to receive bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aerospace engineering in five years.

His experiences provided him with the confidence to lead—and the wisdom to listen—when he became the build lead for a human-powered sailplane project at Penn State.

“Although I had an understanding of how I think differently, based on what I had learned, I was still always learning from my team members and my teammates. They each had their own skills. I was always ready to give but I was also ready to learn.”

Marissa Works

Music Education and Advertising and Public Relations Major

Smeal College Business Fundamentals Certificate

When she was in high school, Marissa Works saw how music therapy positively affected the memory of her grandmother, who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease.

“That showed me how powerful music can be in all stages of life.”

Works knew she wanted to study music education in college, but she also wanted to challenge herself in other academic areas.

“I wanted to add another degree. I just wasn’t sure what it was. I knew Penn State would let me do that.”

By adding an advertising and public relations major, Works improved her writing and verbal communications skills. As part of her pursuit of a Smeal College of Business Fundamentals Certificate, she added economics and supply chain courses.

“They were so different than everything in the school of music, and I loved that balance.”

Works supplemented her coursework with experiences that also spanned disciplines. Through the Penn State Performing Arts Council, Works and fellow Schreyer Scholar Anthony Stem created a mobile application that allowed arts-related organizations on campus to showcase upcoming events.

“I learned how to pitch an idea, how to develop people’s trust in an idea that you have, how to sell people on it and secure funding. I learned how long it takes to plan a project from beginning to end.”

Works’ honors thesis examined the use of common news values and how they can be used to present music education curricula more effectively to students. She graduated with interdisciplinary honors in music education and advertising/public relations and is currently a project manager for Beauty Unknowns and a music teacher in Arlington (Virginia) Public Schools.

HALLMARKS OF THE SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

Honors Courses: More than 300 courses, taught by leading faculty, span the academic spectrum. Honors classes typically enroll no more than twenty-five students. Some honors courses are  
enriched versions of regular Penn State offerings while others are unique to the honors curriculum.

Honors Advising: Honors advisers help Schreyer Scholars explore interests and possibilities while keeping them focused on their academic requirements.

Priority Registration: Schreyer Scholars are able to schedule classes first—well before course registration begins for most Penn State students.

Grants: The Schreyer Honors College awards grants to help offset the costs associated with traveling abroad for study, research, or service. Grants are also available to assist with living expenses associated with unpaid summer internships and research.

Study Abroad: In 2019-20, Schreyer Honors College dedicated $300,000 to support international experiences for Scholars.

Signature Study Abroad Programs:

> Summer study abroad in India and Colombia.

> Each year, a rotating offering of faculty-proposed programs for international study is  
available. Recent destinations include Japan, Thailand and South Africa.

> London Study Tour, a theatre-intensive program open to all majors.

The Honors Thesis: The thesis distinguishes a Schreyer Scholar’s career and accomplishments at Penn State. It is a substantial, scholarly work that defines a Scholar’s academic achievement.

The Scholars Medal: The medal is awarded to graduating Scholars who have successfully

completed the college’s academic requirements. A Scholar’s diploma and transcript note that the individual graduated with honors in a specific academic area.

Distinguished Honors Faculty Program: This program brings leading faculty members together with Scholars to challenge their intellect to discover, explore, and discuss subjects from all disciplines. The DHFP helps Scholars learn how to interact in formal and informal settings. Past programs include global health and entrepreneurship, visits to embassies in Washington, D.C., and Johns Hopkins Hospital to learn about cancer disparities.

Academic Excellence Scholarship: All first-year Schreyer Scholars receive the Academic Excellence Scholarship, a value of $5,000 per year, renewable for a total of four years (eight semesters). The scholarship may be combined with other need- and merit-based University funding up to the total cost of attendance.

39% OF SCHREYER SCHOLARS STUDY ABROAD

21% OF SCHREYER SCHOLARS HAVE TWO OR MORE MAJORS

SCHREYER SCHOLARS STUDY IN 56 COUNTRIES

3.84 THE AVERAGE GPA FOR THE CLASS OF 2020

330 HONORS COURSES

honors graduation requirements

35 honors credits

3.40 cumulative GPA

Submission and approval of an honors thesis

Visit shc.psu.edu for a full list of requirements.

becoming a schreyer scholar

Selection is based on a supplemental application, which includes essays (essay questions will be published at shc.psu.edu/admissions in mid-July), short answer questions, and recommendations. Your self-reported academic record will also be reviewed. Applicants who submit by the Nov. 2 priority deadline are eligible to participate in our optional Alumni Interview Program. Interviews can be scheduled starting on Oct. 1 and must be completed by Dec. 21.

AUG 1

Application is available through the general Penn State admission application

Nov 2

Optional Alumni Interviews open

NOV 2

Priority deadline to submit your application

DEC 4

Final application deadline

Before MAR 1

Decisions are announced

shc.psu.edu/admissions

honors at all penn state campuses

Schreyer Scholars may start at any of Penn State’s undergraduate campuses but must complete their studies (junior and senior years) at one of seven Penn State campuses: Abington, Altoona, Behrend, Berks, Brandywine, Harrisburg, or University Park. All undergraduate campuses except University Park also have their own honors programs, which offer special academic and extracurricular enrichment opportunities. These programs have their own selection criteria. For more information, please contact the honors coordinator or admissions office at the campus you are interested in attending.

Later entry to schreyer honors college

Current Penn State students with exemplary academic records may be considered for entry into the Schreyer Honors College, subject to the approval of their department or college. Typically, this consideration occurs at the end of the sophomore year. Please visit the website below for more information.

shc.psu.edu/admissions/apply/current.cfm

LIVING WITH HONORS

Scholars housing is the perfect mix of residence-life fun in an environment dedicated to academic achievement.

Simmons and Atherton Halls

> Located on campus, near downtown State College, close to restaurants, shopping, libraries, and workout facilities

> Social hours and fireside chats with alumni, faculty, and staff

> 10+ study areas and 24/7 computer labs

> 3 TV lounges

> 2 soundproof music practice rooms

> rec rooms with ping-pong, pool, air hockey, and foosball

The GLOBE

Within honors housing is a special living option called The GLOBE, which brings the world closer   
to home. This recently renovated floor in Simmons Hall houses seventy-four Scholars interested in global issues. Cultural films, discussions with faculty on globalization, demonstrations of ethnic food cooking, and conversations with Scholars who have recently studied abroad are among the programs offered.

The Schreyer Honors College offers funding to scholars for:

• research

• study abroad

• internships

• need-based scholarships

STUDENT LIFE

Penn State has something for everyone with more than 1,200 clubs and organizations—many led by Schreyer scholars. Our students lead not only in the classroom, but across the University, in NCAA Division I sports; THON, the largest student-run philanthropy in the world; Penn State Blue Band; and social and volunteer organizations. Nittany Lion mascots have been Schreyer Scholars and for the past seven years, a Scholar has served as the Drum Major.

AWARDS

During the 2019–20 academic year, Schreyer Honors Scholars have been the recipients of numerous awards, both nationally and around the world. These students exemplify the mission of the Schreyer Honors College: to achieve excellence with integrity, build a global perspective, and create opportunities for leadership and civic engagement.

Matthew Aronson

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Winner 2020 Matthew Aronson, a graduating senior who majored in biomedical engineering, was the recipient of a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation, which went to support his research on microbiome engineering and regenerative medicine.

Autumn Deitrick

Goldwater Scholarship Winner 2020

Autumn Deitrick, a junior majoring in civil engineering, was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Her research focused on how to accurately predict attraction flow for nature-like fish passages which help aquatic life complete their migratory journeys.

Panini Pandya

Fulbright ETA Fellowship Recipient 2020

Panini Pandya, a graduating senior who majored in international politics, Spanish, and history, received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Fellowship, which she will compete in Colombia. She was also the student marshal for the department of international studies in the College of the Liberal Arts’ spring commencement.

Ava Self

Astronaut Scholarship Winner 2020

Ava Self, a junior majoring in chemical engineering, was awarded an Astronaut Scholarship for her work in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Her research focuses on using graphene as a platform for targeted breast cancer treatment.

Rachel Swope

Goldwater Scholarship Winner 2020

Rachel Swope, a junior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology, was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. She worked on several projects related to axon and dendrite regeneration in Drosophila (fruit fly) sensory neurons.

Andrew White

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Winner 2020

Andrew White, a graduating senior who majored in mechanical engineering, was the recipient of a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. His research explored new ways to mitigate heat within devices such as high-performance computers, electric vehicles and smartphone batteries.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Schreyer Scholars have opportunities to be matcheD with some of the University’s most accomplished graduates through the Society of Distinguished Alumni Mentoring Program. Additionally, through the College’s Mentoring with Honors Program, Scholar alumni connect with individual Scholars to share their perspectives on navigating life, both in college and after graduation. Schreyer Honors College has one of the largest alumni engagement programs on campus in terms of numbers and hours engaged.

258 alumni interview prospective students

109 ALUMNI AND CURRENT STUDENT MENTOR MATCHES

9,119 scholar alumni give back philanthropically

INDUSTRY LEADERS

We are proud of our schreyer honors college alumni WHO go on to become leaders across industries. For our Scholars, this presents an opportunity to develop mentor/mentee relationships—some of which turn into full-time employment opportunities. For our alumni, it is a chance to remain engaged with the college and help inspire the next generation of the country’s leaders. For employers, it presents a glimpse into the caliber of students matriculating from the Schreyer Honors College.

Lisa Baird ’82 Lib

Commissioner, National Women’s Soccer League

Danielle Bassett ’04 Sci

J. Peter Skirkanich Professor of Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania

Reginald Hedgebeth ’89 Lib

Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Administrative Officer, Marathon Oil Corporation

Mary Beth Long ’85 Com

First woman to serve as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

Co-owner and co-founder, Askari Defense and Intelligence, LLC

Owner and founder, METIS Solutions, LLC

Owner and founder, M B Long & Associates, PLLC

Co-Founder and Principal, Global Alliance Advisors, LLC

David Rusenko ’07 IST

CEO and Co-Founder, Weebly

Ryan Rzepecki ’01 Bus

Founder & CEO, JUMP Bikes

Andy Sieg ’89 Bus

Head of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Rebecca funk ‘07 BUS

Co-founder and CEO, The Outrage

ryan newman ‘01 bus

Managing Director, Goldman Sachs

kelly ayotte ‘90 LIB

Former United States Senator

Stefen Wisniewski

Professional Football Player and Two-Time

World Champion

GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL PLACEMENTs

Brown University

Carnegie Mellon University

Columbia University

Cornell University

George Washington University

Harvard Law School

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Northwestern University

Sidney Kimmel Medical College

Stanford University

The London School of Economics and Political Science

University of British Columbia

University of California, Berkeley

University of Chicago

University of Michigan

University of Pennsylvania

University of Southern California

University of Washington

Yale University

EMPLOYERS

Accenture

Amazon

Bates White

Bloomberg L.P.

Boeing

Capital One

Cigna

Comcast NBCUniversal

Corning

Dell

Deloitte

ExxonMobil

Ford Motor Company

Goldman Sachs

Hershey Medical Center

IBM

Johnson & Johnson

JPMorgan Chase

KPMG

Kraft Heinz

Lockheed Martin

McKinsey & Co.

Microsoft Corporation

PNC

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Teach for America

The Boston Consulting Group

The National Park Service

The United States Navy

(Sample Lists from 2019–20)

#9 RANKing for Best CAREER SERVICES

Princeton Review, The Best 381 Colleges: 2017 Edition,

Penn State University ranked #9 for Best Career Services

find out more

Schreyer Honors College

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CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS—The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request.  Penn State’s combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.  The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters.  You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at www.police.psu.edu/clery/  A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864.

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