

ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
**CELEBRATION  
OF EXCELLENCE**

April 17, 2026





# Friday, April 17, 2026

9 a.m. :: **Concurrent Sessions** :: Crispin Hall and McGaw Fine Arts Center

11 a.m. :: **Music Honors Recital** :: Rammelkamp Chapel

1 p.m. :: **Concurrent Sessions** :: Crispin Hall

1 p.m. :: **Theatre Presentations** :: ICEBOX Theatre, Kirby Learning Center

2 p.m. :: **Poster Session** :: King Field House, Bruner Fitness and Recreation Center

3 p.m. :: **Honors Convocation** :: Sherman Gym

3:45 p.m. :: **Reception** :: Bruner Concourse

4:15 p.m. :: **Departmental Award Presentations** :: Sherman Gym

7:30 p.m. :: **TheatreWorks presents *Anatomy of Gray***  
Sibert Theatre, McGaw Fine Arts Center

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# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2026

## Concurrent Sessions - Student Presentations

	9 to 9:15 a.m.	9:20 to 9:35 a.m.	9:40 to 9:55 a.m.	10 to 10:15 a.m.
<b>Crispin 210</b>	<p><b>Hidden Suffering: Why the Animal Welfare Act Fails and Consumers Must Demand Change</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Mackenzie Jones</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Lee Crank</p>	<p><b>AI-Powered Research: Evaluating and Comparing Leading Research Tools</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Christopher Jones</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> McKenna Jaquemet</p>	<p><b>The Statistics of Inclusion: A Diversity Audit of Schewe Library's Economics Section</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Mia Goins</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> McKenna Jaquemet</p>	<p><b>Fact or Tune: Can Teachers Truly Use Musicals to Teach?</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Theodore Biela</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Jenny Barker-Devine</p>
<b>Crispin 125</b>	<p><b>Youth Development in Montpellier: An International Internship Experience</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Jiech Bel</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsors:</i> Brittney Yancy, Margherita Orlando: Internship &amp; Administrative Coordinator through University of Minnesota Montpellier</p>	<p><b>Fact Versus Fiction on Flapper Culture</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Allison Fraley</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Brittney Yancy</p>	<p><b>How Red is Red? Quantifying Red in Everyday Snacks Using UV-Vis Spectroscopy</b></p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Alyssa Piper and Adel Honold</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Jocelyn Lanorio</p>	<p><b>Why is Student Assessment Important?</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Jenni Boden</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Suzanne Kell</p>
<b>Dunham Auditorium</b>	<p><b>North Korean Opera as Political Propaganda</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Meryn Davis</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Nichol DelGiorno</p>	<p><b>Old World Blues Digital Music Production</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Nathan Wood</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Nichol DelGiorno</p>	<p><b>Fang Runin as a Product of Patriarchy Imperialism: The Impact of Mythopoeia on the Characterization of a Woman of Color in Contemporary High Fantasy</b></p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Claire Peters</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Beth Capo</p>	<p><b>Expanding the Click Chemistry Toolbox: Greener Cycloaddition Catalysts from First-Row Transition Metals</b></p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Princess Akyea-Obesebea, Beamlak Hiltework and Camille Prefountain</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Jocelyn Lanorio</p>
<b>Sibert Theatre</b>				<p><b>IC's Literary Journal, Forte, Presents Poetry Out Loud!</b></p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Noel Carney, Yvonne Iskrev, Asia Madkins, Allen Oakley, Abby O'Malley, Ellie Wilson</p> <p><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Kara Dorris</p>
<b>Icebox Theatre</b>				

# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2026

## Concurrent Sessions - Student Presentations

10:20 to 10:35 a.m.	10:40 to 10:55 a.m.	1 to 1:15 p.m.	1:20 to 1:35 p.m.	1:40 to 1:55 p.m.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Post-WWII Women’s Fashion in the United States</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Norah Hacker</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Brittney Yancy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sources of Quantum Advantage: A Systematic Review of Quantum Computational Frameworks</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Luke Laurenzana</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Marilyn Markel</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Examining the Effects of Physical Intervention and Therapies on Motor Development in Children with Disabilities</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Kaelyn Mitchell</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Prasanna Acharya</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Persistent Persuasion: A Qualitative Content Analysis of World War II Propaganda and Trump’s 2020 Social Media Campaign Messaging</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Lucy Aldrich</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Yorkow Oppon-Acquah</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Correlation or Causation? Exploring the Link Between Epstein-Barr Virus Infection and Multiple Sclerosis</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Shelby Seiler</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Laura Corey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pathogen Go Fish: Gamifying Microbiology Learning</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Macie Petropoulos</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Laura Corey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Rise and Fall of Dormitory Court at Illinois College</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Kairy Mercado-Ramos</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Glass Mind: The Poetics of Becoming in College</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Alicia Pitkin</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Samantha Smith</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Investigation of Genetic Similarity of Three Populations of The Hawaiian Bog Orchid, <i>Peristylus holochila</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Ben Dobbs</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Laura Corey</p>			
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Poetry Against Injustice</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenter:</i> Abby O’Malley</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Kara Dorris</p>			
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Avant-Garde in Theatre: Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenters:</i> Lillian Deter with students Corwin Townsend, Jayde Hudson, and alumna Olivia Joy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Nancy Taylor Porter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theatre on the Edge: A Monster Anthology</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presenters:</i> Carson Blaney, Meryn Davis, Lillian Deter, Jerzi Hinds, Jayde Hudson, Jacob Petrovich, Jaden Saunders, Corwin Townsend, Ellie Wilson, and alumna Olivia Joy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Faculty Sponsor:</i> Nancy Taylor Porter</p>	

# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2026

## Department of Music Honors Recital

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11 a.m. :: Rammelkamp Chapel

“For Forever” from Dear Evan Hansen ..... Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Christopher Jones, tenor  
Mrs. Terri Benz, piano

“In Whatever Time We Have” from Children of Eden ..... Stephen Schwartz

Meryn Davis, mezzo-soprano  
Jacob Petrovich, baritone  
Dr. Nichol DelGiorno, piano

Angels ..... Robbie Williams

Luke Laurenzana, tenor  
Haydn Leonard, baritone  
Dr. Nichol DelGiorno, piano

Square One ..... Joey Eng

Kairy Mercado Ramos, marimba

Postludes #5 & #7 (2013) ..... Elliot Cole/arr. Tyler Carpenter

Prof. Tyler Carpenter & Lillian Deter, vibraphone

Blue Skies ..... Irving Berlin, arr. Rutherford

Chamber Singers featuring Luke Laurenzana, soloist  
Meryn Davis, Cade Emerick, Riley Joelner, Christopher Jones,  
Sydney Jones, Kairy Mercado Ramos, Ekko Nguyen, Jacob Petrovich  
Dr. Nichol DelGiorno, piano

Special Presentation from Students in MU 144 Introduction to Digital Music Production



# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2026

## Poster Presentations

King Fieldhouse | 2:00 – 2:55 p.m.

Poster	Presenter(s)	Title
1	Glenn Conway	Game Theory and Tennis Serving Strategies <i>Faculty Sponsor: Marilyn Markel</i>
2	Regan Filkin	Animal Confinement: An Exploration of Ethical Concerns and Arguments <i>Faculty Sponsor: McKenna Jacquemet</i>
3	Rei Chikyu	Hotel Cancellation Prediction with XGBoost and Customer Segmentation using K-Means Clustering
4	J'Aiden Cranwell-Meneses	Resonant Frequencies in PEC Cavity <i>Faculty Sponsor: Ashiq Rahman</i>
5	JJ Simmerman	Computational Modeling of the Biot-Savart Law: Investigating the Effects of Finite Wire Discretization <i>Faculty Sponsor: Ashiq Rahman</i>
6	Jesus Romero	Simulating 2D Cylindrical EM Waves by Solving Maxwell's Equations Using FDTD Method <i>Faculty Sponsor: Ashiq Rahman</i>
7	Valentina Orizi	Ritsumeikan Data Science Program (RDSP): Overview and Analysis of the Use of Data Science to Predict Economic Factors <i>Faculty Sponsor: Takako Soma</i>
8	Xavier Rivera, Xaiver Applegate, and Jack Flatley	Jaundice & External Radiant Rewarming for the Youth to Address Global Maternal Health Disparities in Low-Resource Communities <i>Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Murray</i>
9	McKenzie Murray	Global Maternal and Child Health Equity: A Feasibility Study for A Phototherapy Prototype to Treat Neonatal Jaundice <i>Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Murray</i>
10	Camille Prefountain	Can Ordinary Nickel Do the Job? Exploring Common Nickel Salts in Click Chemistry <i>Faculty Sponsor: Jocelyn Lanorio</i>
11	Beamlak Hiltework	Recycling Copper Catalysts for Sustainable Triazole Synthesis in Aqueous Media <i>Faculty Sponsor: Jocelyn Lanorio</i>
12	Akyea-Obesebea Princess	Exploring Zinc(II) Catalysis in Aqueous Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition for Sustainable Triazole Formation <i>Faculty Sponsor: Jocelyn Lanorio</i>
13	Ashley Groves and Emma Huelskamp	Effectiveness of Daily Sedation Interruption in Mechanically Ventilated Adult Intensive Care Unit Patients: Systematic Review <i>Faculty Sponsor: Angela Bentley</i>
14	Judivine Sydouane, Djouka Tagakou, and Anita Shibu	Effectiveness of Meditation in Stress and Anxiety Management Among College Nursing Students: A Systematic Review <i>Faculty Sponsor: Angela Bentley</i>
15	Lexie Blackley and Justine Agsalda	Burnout in Critical Care Nurses: The Impact of Debriefing <i>Faculty Sponsor: Angela Bentley</i>

<i>Poster</i>	<i>Presenter(s)</i>	<i>Title</i>
16	Bobby Driver, Kylee Golden, Justine Asgald, and Lexie Blackley	The Impact of Socioeconomic Status and Psychosocial Factors on Burnout in College Students <i>Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Rellinger Zettler</i>
17	Jenna McVeigh and Madalyn Norman	Frequency of Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI's) and Performance on Short-term Memory Tasks in College Students <i>Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Rellinger Zettler</i>
18	Emma Dunsworth, Ella Ausmus, Lexi Blackley, and Justine Asgald	Self-Efficacy and Autonomy as Predictors of Resilience and Burnout in Healthcare Workers <i>Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Rellinger Zettler</i>
19	Kylee Golden, Bobby Driver, Lexie Blackley, and Justine Asgald	Correlations between Psychological Strengths and Resilience among College Students <i>Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Rellinger Zettler</i>
20	Gavin Rasmussen	Exploring the Impact of Immersive Virtual Reality on the EEG Neurofeedback Experience <i>Faculty Sponsor: Yu-Hua Yeh</i>
21	Miranda Araujo and Laney Goddard	The structure and context of social calls produced by tree roosting bats <i>Lasiurus</i> and <i>Lasionycteris</i> <i>Faculty Sponsor: Bryan Arnold</i>
22	Melvin Hodge	Social Calls as Indicators of Foraging Activity in Big Brown Bats ( <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> ) <i>Faculty Sponsor: Bryan Arnold</i>
23	Jenna Sharp	Assessing genetic relatedness of co-captured bats in mist nets using variable microsatellite markers <i>Faculty Sponsor: Bryan Arnold</i>
24	Morgan Carrino	Classification of Bacteria Found From Soil Samples and the Methods Used
25	Grace Vaughn	The Roles of Sexual Dimorphism and Age in Human Cranial Angle Measurements <i>Faculty Sponsor: Miranda Karban</i>
26	Hollie Pettitt	Permanent Tooth Eruption Timing and Malocclusion Class in Modern Humans: A Dental Cast Analysis <i>Faculty Sponsor: Miranda Karban</i>
27	Jerica LaMarsh	Nasal Bone Development in Extant Humans <i>Faculty Sponsor: Miranda Karban</i>
28	Tatum Wimbrow	Post-Metamorphic Lens Regeneration in <i>Xenopus laevis</i> <i>Faculty Sponsor: Paul Hamilton</i>
29	Juliana Rensing	Antibiotic Ototoxicity Screening in <i>Xenopus laevis</i> Tadpoles <i>Faculty Sponsor: Paul Hamilton</i>

# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2026

## Honors Convocation

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3 p.m. :: Sherman Gymnasium

Processional (please stand) ..... “Overture”

Welcome ..... Catharine E. O’Connell, Ph.D.  
Provost and Dean of the College

Reflections on Excellence ..... Provost O’Connell

Don P. Filson Faculty Award for Vision for the Future ..... Provost O’Connell

2026-2027 Class Marshals Announcement ..... Provost O’Connell

Phi Beta Kappa, National Academic Honor Society ..... Laura Corey, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
Gwendolyn Gillson, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Asian Studies

The *Enkyklios* Professor Award ..... Dane Wendell, Ph.D.  
Dean of Faculty

Julian M. Sturtevant Campus Leadership and Service Award ..... Dean Wendell

Lincoln Academy Student Laureate ..... Barbara A. Farley, Ph.D.  
President

Harry Joy Dunbaugh Distinguished Professor Award ..... President Farley

Closing ..... President Farley

Alma Mater (please stand) ..... Ruth Badger Pixley  
Music by A. Boyd Pixley

Illinois dear Alma Mater  
Ivy'd Beecher, Sturtevant  
Here we sign thy  
Loving praises,  
Here, renew our covenant.

Hail forever, Alma Mater  
May thy children  
Bring thee fame.  
Hail forever, Illinois  
In our hearts shall live thy name.

Recessional (please stand) ..... "La Rejouissance"  
"Minuet Finale"



# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

## ILLINOIS COLLEGE 2026

### Departmental Awards

#### ART AND DESIGN IN VISUAL STUDIES HONORS

##### Elizabeth Caine Art Award

Awarded to an outstanding senior art major

*Chloe Plough*

##### Carlson-Damsgaard Family Award in Art

Awarded to two students in the visual arts program with excellent original work

*Sarah Alexander and Kortessa Moulton*

##### Wilburn Art Award

Awarded to the most promising beginning student in studio art or art history

*Jack Barajas*

#### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES HONORS

##### Elaine Chapman Award for Outstanding Health Sciences Major

*Breann Ruble*

##### Environmental Studies Outstanding Major

*Toby McTamney, Tanner Spencer, and Drake Stuart*

##### Willis DeRyke Prize in Biology

Awarded to the best students in introductory biology

*Mady Brewer, Shaely Hayes, and Angelina Rogers*

#### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES HONORS *cont.*

##### Lucas Memorial Science Award

Awarded to an outstanding senior pre-medical student

*Juliana Rensing*

##### Gerald A. Lucas Prize in Biology

Awarded to a senior major with the highest grade point average in biology

*Miranda Araujo*

##### Sokolis Prize in Ecological Consciousness

Awarded to the senior who has demonstrated a concern for preserving the natural environment and a desire to enter the field of ecological conservation

*Ashly Cedeno*

##### Beta Beta Beta (Biology)

*Bianca Aduato, Princess Akyea-obesebea, Will Bateman, Mia Beshoar, Ben Dobbs, Rylee Dodd, Laney Goddard, Drew Herman, Brooke Loveall, Sydney Maggart, Samantha Matchett, Camille Prefountain, Jena Sellers, and Grace Vaughn*

## Departmental Awards *continued*

### BUSINESS HONORS

#### John H. McNaughton Prize in Accounting

Awarded to superior accounting majors

*1st: Jake Holder*

*2nd: Isaac Anderson*

*3rd: Lauren Dunham*

#### Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Accounting

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the accounting department

*On campus: Isaac Anderson and Peyton Merreighn*

*Online: Stacy Holdren*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Finance

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the finance department

*Haydn Leonard*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Marketing

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the marketing department

*On campus: Roxann Richardson*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Human Resources

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the human resources department

*On campus: Aklisia Debebe*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Economics

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the economics department

*Glenn Conway*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Agribusiness

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the agribusiness department

*On campus: Mya Nanninga*

*Online: Jason Hasbrook and Brenna Lake*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Sports Management

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the sports management department

*Jayln Patterson*

### BUSINESS HONORS *cont.*

#### Outstanding Graduating Senior in Business Administration

Awarded to a senior who has displayed overall academic excellence, leadership and service to the business administration department

*On campus: Kaydence Haag and Sabrina Ingram*

*Online: Sarah Mchabcheb and Gloria Uncapher*

#### Delta Mu Delta (*Business*)

*Maddie Kennedy Adams, Vaeda Cox,*

*Lauren Michelle Dunham, Ezzy Houston Mauermann,*

*Peyton Merreighn, Allen Baker Oakley, Skyler Olson,*

*Kieran Gabriel Powers, Rebecca Anne Verenski,*

*and Alyssa Marie Wise*

### CHEMISTRY HONORS

#### ACS Collegiate Scholastic Award

Awarded to recognize outstanding undergraduate chemistry students and promote interest in chemistry as a profession

*Jacob Petrovich*

#### ACS POLYED Organic Chemistry Achievement Award

Awarded for outstanding performance by an undergraduate chemistry major in the two semester organic sequence

*Avery Fritz*

#### American Institute of Chemists Outstanding Senior Award (*Biochemistry*)

Awarded to an outstanding senior majoring in biochemistry in recognition of a demonstrated record of ability, leadership and professional promise

*Drew Herman*

#### American Institute of Chemists Outstanding Senior Award (*Chemistry*)

Awarded to an outstanding senior majoring in chemistry in recognition of a demonstrated record of ability, leadership and professional promise

*Jacob Petrovich*

#### ACS Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry

Awarded to recognize achievement by undergraduate students in inorganic chemistry and to encourage further study in the field. The student nominee will have demonstrated excellence in inorganic chemistry at the undergraduate level based on combination of research, coursework, and motivation.

*Beamlak Hiltework*

## Departmental Awards *continued*

### CHEMISTRY HONORS *cont.*

#### CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award

Awarded to a first-year student demonstrating significant achievement in the general chemistry course

*Palmer Phillis*

#### Arthur C. Hart Prize in Chemistry

Awarded to an outstanding student entering the junior year majoring in chemistry who shows promise of academic achievement in the field

*Alyssa Piper*

### COMMUNICATION AND RHETORICAL STUDIES HONORS

#### William Jennings Bryan Professional Promise Award

Awarded to the seniors who have demonstrated extraordinary potential for integrating professional excellence, active citizenship and servant leadership

*Matthew Billenstein, Matthew Hagy,  
Pablo Iniguez, and Dominic Madonia*

#### Communication & Rhetorical Studies Academic Excellence Award

Awarded each year to a student who has demonstrated overall excellence in terms of classroom performance in the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies in their previous year(s) at Illinois College

*Summer Brandis*

#### National Communication Association Outstanding Senior Award

Awarded to an outstanding senior in the communication studies department

*Kaydence Haag*

#### Lambda Pi Eta (*Communication Studies*)

*Cate Breden, Meryn Davis, Virgil Haggard,  
Kevin Howell, Allison Icenogle, Yvonne Iskrev,  
Isayah Kloster, Kellen Leifheit, Ezzy Mauermann,  
Heaven Neal, Erin O'Connell, Aylin Rodriguez,  
and Ciara Taborn*

### COMPUTER SCIENCE HONORS

#### Outstanding Graduate in Computer Science

Awarded to the graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding performance in the computer sciences

*Luke Laurenzana and Danny Marshall*

#### Ts'ing-Hi Tong Computer Science Award

Awarded to a junior computer science major

*Rei Chikyu*

### EDUCATION HONORS

#### Dr. Thomas L. Smith Teacher Education Memorial Award

Awarded to the education major entering the senior year demonstrating outstanding scholarship, campus and local community involvement

*Paige George*

#### Bright Beginnings Child Care Center Award

Awarded to a junior education major with an early childhood or elementary education concentration

*Alejandra Martinez*

#### Kappa Delta Pi (*Education*)

*Ellie Doolittle and Cassidy Michaels*

### ENGLISH HONORS

#### Achievement Award in Creative Writing

*Fiction: Elleigh Buhlig*

*Poetry: Abby O'Malley*

#### Helen Conlee Curtis Prize in English

Awarded to the outstanding senior English major

*Claire Peters*

#### Mary Wade Seybold Prize in English

Awarded to a student who has the best research paper in an advanced course in English

*Laura Kaiser*

#### Sigma Tau Delta (*English*)

*Laura Kaiser, Samantha Matchett,  
Cassandra Mayfield, and Allen Oakley*

## Departmental Awards *continued*

### GLOBAL STUDIES HONORS

#### **Ginevra Thomas Blackburn Award**

Awarded to a second-year French student who will continue to study French

*Norah Hacker*

#### **Edith Rammelkamp Elliott Memorial Award in Modern Languages**

Awarded to outstanding sophomore student who have declared a major in a modern language and demonstrated knowledge and interest in the activities, accomplishments and problems of other human beings home and abroad, and have the ability to function well in various social and academic settings

*Alejandra Martinez*

#### **Edith Rammelkamp and F. Osborne Elliott Junior Year Abroad Award**

Awarded to selected junior students desiring to travel abroad

*Zachary Lowe, Peyton Merreighn, and Kieran Powers*

#### **Ruth L. Fosnaugh Award**

Awarded for outstanding achievement in elementary Spanish

*Abby O'Malley*

#### **Frances Frisch Memorial Award**

Awarded to students desiring to travel abroad

*Alexis Blackley and Kieran Powers*

#### **Martha L. Behr-Miller and William R. Miller Award for Foreign Study**

Awarded to a junior or senior students desiring to study abroad

*Adel Honold, Kieran Powers, and Kaylah Villalobos*

#### **Gordon Seator Foreign Travel Award**

Awarded to a student desiring to travel abroad

*Reagan Gentry*

#### **Miguel and Carmen Arce Student Award**

Awarded to a student studying Spanish abroad who demonstrates high achievement

*Alejandra Martinez and Kieran Powers*

#### **Carlea Melissa Steinmacher Wiedner Travel Award**

Awarded to a rising junior or senior students studying Spanish abroad

*Alejandra Martinez and Kaylah Villalobos*

### HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION HONORS

#### **William Jennings Bryan Award in Political Science**

Awarded for the best written work in political science

*Ellie Ford for paper titled:*

*"China: Fragile Superpower"*

#### **Sokolis Prize in Comparative Religions**

A student who has demonstrated a strong interest in study of comparative religions

*Joshua Schulhofer*

#### **Fred C. Kirkman Award**

Awarded for the best written work in history

*Theodore Biela for paper titled:*

*"Fact or Tune?: Can Teachers Truly Use*

*Music to Teach?"*

#### **Mary Ruth Munding Scholar**

Awarded as the department's highest honor to the most outstanding graduating senior(s)

*Mallory Direso and Emily Guest*

#### **Sankofa Social Responsibility Award in African American Studies**

Awarded to a student who demonstrates exemplary activism or civic engagement, along with excellence in one or more courses in African American Studies

*Jiech Bel*

#### **Mabel Kampert Koss Memorial Award**

Awarded to a sophomore or junior majoring in the humanities

*Hunter Gillis*

#### **Distinguished Senior Award**

Awarded to outstanding graduating seniors in the department

*Jiech Bel, Theodore Biela, Mallory Direso,*

*Sam Godlewski, Emily Guest, and*

*Bryce Knackstedt*

#### **Outstanding First-Year Students in History, Philosophy, Political Science and Religion**

Awarded to Outstanding First Year students in any HPPR field

*Clara Bach, Ean Hanson, Maliyah Kearney,*

*Kassidy Micheals, and Zoe Wilski*

## Departmental Awards *continued*

### HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION HONORS *cont.*

#### Honors for Outstanding Performance on the Senior Capstone Essay in History

Awarded to seniors who wrote outstanding senior essays

*Theodore Biela, Sam Godlewski, and Emily Guest*

#### David S. Watson History Award

Awarded to an outstanding sophomore majoring in history and/or political science

*Norah Hacker*

### MATHEMATICS HONORS

#### Charlotte E. Hart Prize in Mathematics

Awarded to an outstanding sophomore mathematics major who shows promise of academic achievement in the field

*Cade Emerick*

#### Thomas Smith Prize in Mathematics

Awarded to a first-year and sophomore showing the greatest promise in mathematics

*First-Year: Lucy Aldrich*

*Sophomore: Seth Daum*

#### Robert M. Thrall Mathematics Prize

Awarded to the best senior major in the department

*Danny Marshall*

### MUSIC HONORS

#### Jonathan Edward Spilman Choral Award

Awarded to leading vocal musician in the choirs

*Jacob Petrovich*

#### Fred Sanford Drumline Award

Awarded for outstanding performance or leadership in the Drumline

*Lillian Deter and Haydn Leonard*

### NURSING HONORS

#### Nursing Professionalism Award

Awarded to a student with exceptional professional and personal characteristics

*Emma Huelskamp*

#### Nursing Resilience Award

Awarded to a student with exceptional demonstration of resilience and well-being

*Grace Wurtzler*

#### Nursing Academic Award

Awarded to a student with an exceptional accumulative GPA

*Lexie Blackley*

#### Community Service Award

Awarded to a student with exceptional community service during clinical rotations and volunteer clinics

*Judivine Sydouane Djouka Tagakou*

#### Nightingale Award

Awarded to a student who possesses a strong knowledge base, works well with other students and staff, demonstrates strong leadership capability, demonstrates responsibility and accountability for providing quality patient care, employs the nursing process in daily care, demonstrates a definite commitment to the nursing profession, promotes self-care in all areas of nursing, and is an advocate for patients.

*Jourdan Stevens*

### PHYSICS HONORS

#### H. L. Caldwell Prize in Physics

Awarded to students completing either a four year physics major at IC, or simultaneous dual degrees in liberal arts from Illinois College and in engineering from an accredited engineering school, and who shows the greatest promise in future success in physics or engineering

*Xaiver Applegate and Xavier Rivera*

#### George W. Horton Sr. Prize in Physics

Awarded to students completing first-year sequence of physics courses who shows greatest promise for future achievement in physics

*Will Bateman, Weston Campbell, and Juliana Rensing*

## Departmental Awards *continued*

### PSYCHOLOGY HONORS

#### Richard McGeath Honor Award

Awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates exceptional interest in the clinical counseling area of psychology

*Bobby Driver*

#### Louis F. Meek Prize in Psychology

Awarded to the students with the highest grade in introductory psychology

*Zoe Creighton and Abby O'Malley*

#### Eleanor O. Miller Award in Psychology

Awarded to the psychology department's most outstanding senior

*Alicia Pitkin*

#### Psi Chi (Psychology)

*Allison Frailey, Anja Muller, and Kaylah Villalobos*

### SOCIOLOGY HONORS

#### ASA Student Department Prize

Awarded to a student in sociology who has done particularly well on a paper, thesis, field study or performed special service to the department

*Sophie McWard*

#### Excellence in Sociology Award

Awarded to the graduating sociology major for outstanding academic achievement in sociology courses

*Kairy Mercado-Ramos*

#### Edward P. Hopper Award in Sociology

Awarded to a graduating sociology major exemplifying a mature understanding of sociology, combined with a demonstrated ability to apply sociology to social work

*Delaney Fearneyhough*

#### Excellence in Criminal Justice

Awarded to a graduating criminal justice major for outstanding academic achievement in criminal justice courses.

*Kairy Mercado-Ramos*

#### Deputy Taylor H. Briggs Memorial Award

Awarded to a criminal justice major who demonstrates academic achievement, leadership and a commitment to physical fitness

*Bryce Knackstedt*

### SOCIOLOGY HONORS *cont.*

#### Criminal Justice Achievement Award

Awarded to a criminal justice major for academic achievement in the face of adversity or practical achievement that serves the ends of justice

*Kassie Weideman*

#### Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology)

*Bryce Knackstedt, Sophia McWard,  
Kairy Mercado-Ramos, Peyton Merreighn,  
and Olivia Ralston*

#### Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice)

*Taylor Cook, Bryce Knackstedt, Sophia McWard,  
and Kairy Mercado-Ramos*

### THEATRE HONORS

#### John G. Anderson Award in Theatre

Awarded to a student who demonstrates dedicated and consistent excellence in theatre productions

*Jaden Saunders*

#### Diana Dawdy Chesley Award in Technical Theatre

Awarded for outstanding achievement in technical theatre

*Emme Snyder*

#### Dennis J. Ryan Memorial Drama Award

Awarded for an outstanding single achievement in the dramatic arts

*Ellie Wilson*

#### Gerald and Dorothy Staley Senior Award in Theatre

Awarded to a senior demonstrating growth and accomplishment both onstage and backstage

*Jacob Petrovich*

# Interdisciplinary Studies

## GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES HONORS

### **Martha E. Church Award for Excellence in Gender and Women's Studies**

Outstanding scholarship and activism

*Olivia Ralston*

### **Iota Iota Iota (Gender and Women's Studies)**

*Olivia Ralston*

## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES HONORS

### **Robert M. Bellatti International Studies Award**

Awarded to encourage and assist student with opportunities to study in a foreign country. Preference given to a student who have completed two years at IC.

*Kaelyn Mitchell*

### **Alice Margaret Engelbach Memorial Endowment for Asian Studies Award**

Awarded to enhance the understanding of Asia at Illinois College

*Jack Barajas and Kasyden Williams*

### **Alice H. Engelbach Peace Studies Award**

Awarded to a student whose activities encourage, demonstrate or deepen our understanding of conflict resolution and reconciliation

*Heaven Neal*

### **Trish Reynolds International Studies Honor Award**

Awarded as the department's highest honor to a senior majoring in international studies who has combined academic excellence and demonstrated promise in the field

*Bunni Little*

### **Frayn and Clifton Utley Foreign Studies Award**

Awarded to support students who have projects involving travel and/or study outside of the United States

*Ella Ausmus, Allison Fraley, Sabrina Ingram,  
Tamyra Johnson, Julian Luaders,  
Kairy Mercado-Ramos, Ilce Severiano,  
Emmeline Snyder, Michael Stirrett,  
and Willie Whitmore*

# Academic, Leadership and Special Honors

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## Student Marshals

*Ella Ausmus and Evan Cooper*

## Vithal Ayyagari Science Award

Awarded to the outstanding senior in the science division displaying the greatest promise in the field of scientific research

*Beamlak Hiltework*

## Dean H. Baldwin Scholar Athlete Award

Senior male and female athlete who is determined to have excelled in scholarships (based on GPA) and in athletics

*Nolan Decker and Laura Kaiser*

## George William Curry Jr. International BreakAway Award

Awarded to a rising sophomore, junior or senior student who is participating in an international BreakAway Trip

*Jack Barajas*

## Charles and Dorothy Frank Travel Award

Awarded to students submitting the most imaginative and creative proposal for travel planned to enhance their academic studies or for personal enrichment

*Sophie Muir*

## Steven F. Ross BreakAway Travel Award

Awarded to a student to assist with expenses of a BreakAway trip outside of the United States with preference given to travel in China, Japan, Asia, Iceland or the United Kingdom. preference given to students who demonstrate financial need.

*Bobby Driver and Maria Hernandez*

## William '66 and Vicki Hood Global Citizens Scholarship

Awarded to benefit students who travel internationally by participating in study abroad programs or BreakAway trips

*Alexis Blackley, Emma Dunnsworth and Zachary Lowe*

*Spain BreakAway; Andrus Dupre and Grayson Dupre*

*Irish American Scholars*

## Fred Hoskins Christian Influence Award

Senior with effective Christian influence on campus

*Emily Guest*

## Lincoln Academy Student Laureate

Presented annually to an outstanding senior from each of Illinois' four-year degree-giving institutions to honor a student's overall academic excellence and extracurricular activities

*Emily Guest*

## Rammelkamp Honor Scholars

Awarded to the students with the highest cumulative grade point average in each of the first-year, sophomore and junior classes for the 2023-2024 academic year

*First-Year: Kayla Brackett and Kieran Powers*

*Sophomore: Meryn Davis and Rei Chikyu*

*Junior: Ali Daoud*

## Julian M. Sturtevant Campus Leadership and Service Award

Awarded to outstanding graduating seniors who are visible leaders on campus and in the organization(s) they serve

*Miranda Araujo, Jiech Bel, Megan Doolittle,*

*Nick Doroskin, Bobby Driver, Emily Guest,*

*Aaron McBride, Jayln Patterson, Jacob Petrovich,*

*Roxann Richardson, Lamarrio (Deon) Rodgers,*

*and Anita Shibu*

## Nancy Watters Widmaier Award

Awarded to a female student who has reached high academic achievement studying English, gender and women's studies or pre-med

*Danielle Simpson*

## Robert C. Widmaier and Nicholas J. Capo Academic Achievement Award

Awarded to a first-year, first-generation college student who has demonstrated excellence in the classroom

*Ximena Aldama*

## Academic, Leadership and Special Honors *continued*

### Walter Bellatti Sr. Honor Scholar Award

Awarded to one female and one male from the senior class for outstanding scholarship, participation in co-curricular activities and demonstrated interest in the welfare and progress of Illinois College

*Miranda Araujo and Nick Doroskin*

### Carole Ann Ryan Fine Arts Prize

Awarded to a student who has contributed a major interest and participation in one or more of the fine arts offerings of Illinois College and community arts organizations

*Luke Laurenzana*

### Marilyn Johnson Hassenger Award

Awarded to students who shows outstanding achievement in music, art, theatre, or literature

*Jacob Petrovich*

### Phi Beta Kappa National Academic Honor Society

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest honorary college society. The ΦBK Society recognizes the highest scholastic distinction by electing members from among the leading candidates for college degrees in the liberal arts and sciences. It is also our privilege to elect as members of the chapter Illinois College Alumni who have embodied the ideals of Phi Beta Kappa during their professional lives.

*Members of the class of 2026 elected as juniors: Ali Daoud and Jacob Petrovich.*

*New Alumni Member: Kent Siltman '81*

*New members from the class of 2026:*

*Miranda Araujo, Glenn Conway, Nicholas Doroskin, Beamlak Tesfaye Hiltework, Payton Richard Johnson, Ryan Kuchar, Haydn Leonard, Peyton Merreighn, and Kahli O'Neal*

### Alpha Lambda Delta

Alpha Lambda Delta is a certified national honor society that recognizes academic excellence in the first year of college and promotes leadership and scholarly engagement across campus. Invitation to Alpha Lambda Delta is sent in the spring semester of a student's first year at Illinois College. Students must possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale to be eligible.

*Ximena Aldama, Lucy Aldrich, Ellie Bartling, Kayleigh Bendik, Savannah Brewer, Carlos Cabrera, Mary Cates, Krystal Cozart, Trey Dent, Courtney Drake, Ian Flatt, Sammy Fulton, Shelby Goodrich, Shaely Hayes, Korina Hecht, Blake Hicks, Jerzi Hinds Hinds, Hannah Hopper, Jordan Hunt, Olivia Johnson, Sydney Jones, Maliyah Kerney, Zach Lowe, Kate May, Andrew Mosham, Grady Owen, Alesia Parks, Macie Petropoulos, Kylie Rakers, Angelina Rogers, Macy Ross, Sofia Russo, Ella Smith, Emme Snyder, Joel Sosa-juarez, Corwin Townsend, Mylee Turner, Paiton Waggoner, Ellie Wilson, Janelle Wornyo, and Morgan Younan*

### National Society of Leadership and Success

National Society of Leadership and Success is a nationally accredited leadership honorary society. Founded in 2001, the NSLS focuses on providing a life-changing leadership program that helps college students achieve personal growth, career success, and empowers them to have a positive impact in their communities. The Illinois College NSLS chapter was founded in 2022. With the exception of the inaugural year, students with a GPA of 2.5 or above receive the invitation to participate in their second year at Illinois College.

*Bailey Abbott, Aurora Baker, Preston Baker, Sophia Barrow, William Bateman, Colby Bishop, Kayla Brackett, Madison Brown, Lili Bugadze, Macey Dauphin, Kellen Davis, Meryn Davis, Paris Friesland, Avery Fritz, Holly Harbaugh, Natalie Hasting, Riley Heyen, Beamlak Hiltework, Adel Honold, Jersey Howell, Bradley Irwin, Hailey Jackson, Zachary Lingenfelter, Elaina Manuel, Griffin Martin, Alejandra Martinez, Ezabella Mauermann, Cassandra Mayfield, Cole McKey, Carter Naeve, Kallie Oestreicher, Kieran Powers, Gavin Rasmussen, Kamille Rhoades, Lucrezia Rima, Aylin Toro Rodriguez, Ilce Severiano, Sam Stimler, Josephine Stout, Macie Strothmann, Judivine Sydouane Djouka Tagakou, Tsilate Mussie Tadesse, Alyssa Teixeira, and Devin Ussery*

# Faculty Honors

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## **Alice H. Engelbach Peace Studies Award**

Awarded to faculty to support activities that encourage, demonstrate or deepen our understanding of conflict resolution and reconciliation

*Nichol DelGiorno, Associate Professor of Music*

*Devin Bryson, Professor of Global Studies-French*

## **Alice Margaret Engelbach Memorial Endowment for Asian Studies**

Awarded to enhance the understanding of Asia at Illinois College

*Gwendolyn Gillson, Associate Professor of Asian Studies*

## **Charles E. Frank Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching**

Awarded to faculty for encouraging excellence in teaching undergraduates in the liberal arts, with emphasis on the relationship of the fellow's field to other fields

*Laura Corey, Professor of Biology*

*Gwendolyn Gillson, Associate Professor of Asian Studies*

*Kara Dorris, Associate Professor of English*

## **Ernest G. Hildner, Jr. Faculty Enrichment Fund**

Awarded to faculty to assist in spending time off campus pursuing and developing academic interests

*Kara Dorris, Associate Professor of English*

*Katelyn Pattillo, Assistant Professor of Art*

*Takako Soma, Associate Professor of Computer Science*

*Gwendolyn Gillson, Associate Professor of Asian Studies*

*Devin Bryson, Professor of Global Studies-Spanish*

*Ecuador Collaboration*

## **Richard T. Fry Faculty Collaboration Fund**

Awarded to faculty to support projects that enhance the College's academic program through their collaborative efforts

*Student-Faculty Research Summer Scholarship Program*

*Cuba Faculty Collaboration*

## **Richard T. Fry Accelerator Fund**

Awarded to faculty to support projects that enhance the College's academic program through their collaborative efforts

*Artificial Intelligence Study Group*

*Department of Nursing-ATI Nurse Educator Summit*

*Ecuador Collaboration*

*Student-Faculty Research Summer Scholarship Program*

## **C. Reed Parker Professional Development Grant**

Awarded to faculty to support activities undertaken between commencement and the opening of the academic year

*Devin Bryson, Professor of Global Studies-Spanish*

*Jocelyn Lanorio, Associate Professor of Chemistry*

## **Dean Carole Ann Ryan Faculty Award**

Awarded to a faculty member to support professional development activities with an intercultural dimension

*Nichol DelGiorno, Associate Professor of Music*

## **Malcolm F. Stewart Faculty Award for Intercultural Education**

Awarded to faculty to strengthen and increase the scope and quality of intercultural education through the improvement of existing courses or the establishment of new courses to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of another people and their culture

*Ecuador Collaboration*





## ABSTRACTS

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Complete abstracts can be found on the  
Illinois College Celebration of Excellence website.

