

UK Chellgren Center

FOR UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE

Alumni Newsletter | Volume IV | 2022



15th Cohort
Chellgren Student Fellows

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING DIRECTOR

This is a special time of year on campus, as we celebrate the success of our graduates in their studies – with the promise and potential of their future careers and endeavors. It is a time of reflection, change, and looking forward. For the past couple of years, our students have faced significant disruption during these formative years. Classes were cancelled, teaching formats were changed, and some traditional experiences were lost. Their resilience was challenged, but ultimately strengthened. They engaged in new ways to prepare for their changed world. Our students persevered.



An example of this perseverance is evidenced in our current and great 2021 Chellow Class. As the acting director of the Chellgren Center, it has been a privilege to work closely with this group this semester. This class is arguably the group of students most disrupted by the pandemic. Most of them lost out on high school graduations and in-person classes/experiences in their first year of college. However, with the Omicron variant raging, this group came together. They met weekly in person, strengthening a sense of identity to the program and each other. They learned lessons of career paths and growth mindset from invited speakers, including a virtual visit from Mr. and Mrs. Chellgren. They designed a logo to represent their class, the 15th Chellow class, and Chellow regalia to be worn at future graduations. They also connected and engaged with previous Chellows through our private LinkedIn network. Finally, they completed their semester of undergraduate research with outstanding faculty mentors across campus. I am excited to see what this group of motivated students will do next! Last week, on a beautiful Spring Day in the Bluegrass, we held a picnic of past, present, and incoming Chellows, and their mentors to celebrate their success and being together. Everyone was smiling, talking, and enjoying themselves. Despite the disruption of a pandemic, the spirit of the Chellgren Center is alive and strong. I couldn't help but reflect on how this special day and Center wouldn't be possible without the vision and generosity of Mr. Chellgren, our outstanding and dedicated staff, and the previous director, Dr. Philipp Kraemer, who retired in January after 13 years at the helm.

Please let us know how you are doing! We would love to learn about your current success and to stay connected.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF CHELLGREN!

University of Kentucky students, alumni, faculty, administrators and friends gathered in October 2021 at Main on Main to celebrate the 15th class of the UK Chellgren Student Fellows. Alumni from nine classes of the student fellowship program were in attendance at the dinner. "Deborah and I congratulate all



photo credit: Zachary Hiler

of the Chellows and all of the contributors to the success and evolution of the Chellgren Center over the 15 years," says Paul Chellgren of he and his wife Deborah, the benefactors whose continued support created the center along with a culture of enrichment in students' lives. "Special thanks to Dr. Phil Kraemer, Chellgren Center director and chair almost all this time, and Lynn Hiler, program coordinator."

THANK YOU, DR. PHILIPP KRAEMER!

We wish to acknowledge and honor Dr. Phil Kraemer on his retirement from UK after 32 years. Dr. Kraemer has overseen over 490 Chellows throughout the entire duration of the program while holding various other positions at UK. Before his appointments at UK, he was an Instructor at the University of Western Ontario and Huron College as well as being an Assistant Professor at Randolph-Macon College, SUNY - Binghamton, Purdue University, and Indiana University of Kokomo.

Dr. Kraemer has acted as an esteemed research mentor to over 60 undergraduate students while publishing over 70 academic papers.

Over the course of his career, he has investigated the cognitive basis of ideas and innovation, the psychology of virtual worlds, American pragmatism, belief, and cognitive science, and issues in higher education. We thank Dr. Kraemer for his commitment to student success and his contributions to the field of psychology.



photo credit: Zachary Hiler



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Appointments at UK

Professor of Psychology (1989-2021)
Chair, Department of Psychology
(1997-1999)
Dean of Undergraduate Studies
(1999-2001)
Associate Provost (2001-2008)
Chellgren Chair for Undergraduate
Excellence (2008-2021)

catching up with CHIMENE NTAKARUTIMANA

Chimene Ntakarutimana, a Chellgren Fellow Alumna, moved to London this past year to complete her two years of graduate study that is financed by the Marshall Scholarship.

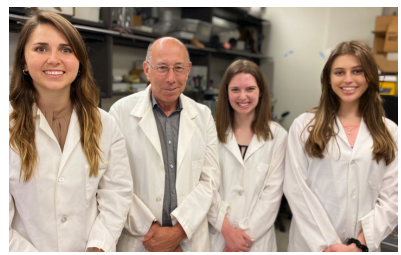
"Graduate school has been a magical whirlwind. Since moving to London, I have learned what it means to find and create home in a city that is always on the go. I have had the chance to explore castles, eat Haggis, and spend a Sunday afternoon dancing in a city plaza. All these moments have grounded me and made me more excited to chase adventures. I have found community amongst the scholars in my degree program as well as the students in my Marshall community. As a candidate for a Masters in Global Migration, I have been challenged to take my activism into the classroom. Being here, in these spaces, has reaffirmed that being disruptive can be a great thing when the goal is to reimagine the world."



CHELLGREN CENTER ENDOWED PROFESSORS

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The Chellgren Endowed Professorship has meant a lot in contributing to undergraduate research in my group...This provided freedom for the students to pursue their own research interest with some guidance from me.



Dr. Robin Cooper,
College of Arts and Sciences

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“ During my time as a Chellgren Endowed Professor, I've had the honor of working with collaborators across the university on two major research projects related to undergraduate education at UK. Together, we've been able to understand more about the types of experiences that support students' sense of belonging and beliefs in their academic capabilities. I am particularly grateful for the near 10,000 undergraduate students and over 100 instructors who have taken the time to share their perspectives with us through surveys and one-on-one interviews.

Dr. Ellen Usher, College of Education ”

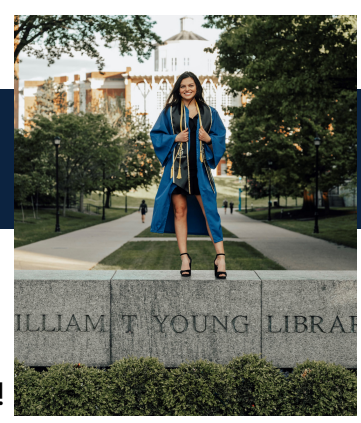
The Chellgren Center takes a leadership role in advocating for undergraduate excellence, educational innovation and community service. The center currently supports an endowed chair, five endowed professors and several faculty fellows. "Most of the funds allotted to the professorship were not used for my personal salary but for research supplies, publication costs and society membership as well as registration for professional meetings for the undergraduate students," says Endowed Professor Dr. Robin Cooper. "This allowed the students to work on various projects and to consider publishing their studies without worrying about the financial costs." Each endowed professor serves a three-year appointment. This support enables faculty to pursue various research aspirations and adds to the environment of creativity and innovation that Paul Chellgren has developed.

The current recipients of this professorship are Dr. Luke Bradley (College of Medicine), Dr. Robin Cooper (College of Arts and Sciences), Dr. Ryan Hargrove (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment), Dr. Tammy Stephenson (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment), and Dr. Ellen Usher (College of Education). This current appointment period will conclude in 2022.

Thanks Savina! and Congratulations!

Thank you!

A hearty thank you to Savina Williams for her many contributions to the Chellgren Center through her years as a Chellow and an awesome Chellgren Student Assistant (including this newsletter). We wish you well as you start on your career path. Keep in touch!



Join the LinkedIn Alumni Group!

To connect alumni, current students, faculty, and staff of the Chellgren Fellows Program, we have created a LinkedIn group! Follow the QR code to the page to request to join.



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