

UK Chellgren Center

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | VOLUME V | 2022-2023



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

DR. ISABEL C. ESCOBAR

As my first year as Chellgren Endowed Chair and Director of the Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence comes to an end, I am starting to reflect on the growth and achievements of our Chellgren Fellows. The Fellows exemplify exceptional academic achievement, as well as a commitment to personal growth and leadership. My goal as Endowed Chair and Director is to provide students with access to a variety of resources and support services designed to help them achieve their academic and personal goals. The 2022-23 Class of Fellows traveled to Washington, DC together, where they met with previous Fellows at various stages of their careers, and where they toured the Capitol and the Smithsonian Museums. In this year, I witnessed this group of students go from individuals to a supportive cohort helping each other grow and achieve their goals. Mr. Paul Chellgren believes that by investing in these students, a better future will be created for them, for our Commonwealth of Kentucky, for our nation, and the world. With this newsletter, we highlight the accomplishments and the experiences of Fellows, and how they are realizing Mr. Chellgren's vision for the Center.



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2023 CHELLOWS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Very early on October 26, 2022, the 2023 Chellgren Fellows traveled to Washington, D.C. This opportunity allowed Chellows to explore their areas of interest within politics and government. While in D.C., students shared breakfast with alumni currently studying or working in D.C., including Shiza Arshad (who recently passed the D.C. bar - congrats!), Nicole Blackstone, graduate student at George Washington University, and Trevor McNary, Program Officer at Trusted Elections Fund. Students toured the Capitol building, visited the Senate Chamber, courtesy of Senator McConnell's office, and explored the National Mall and Smithsonian Museums. It was a wonderful opportunity for the new Chellows to get to know each other and the program directors outside of the classroom. "I had an amazing time in D.C., and I'm so grateful to the Chellgren Center for making it such a memorable experience," said participant Ella Brown-Terry. "That's a day I'll never forget!"

CHELLGREN INAUGURAL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

This May, 10 members of the 2023 Chellgren Fellows class (Helena Arjona, Ella Brown-Terry, Tiffany Clark, Nick Coffman, Faham Hossain, Rachel Hwang, Sandy Nino, Asa O'Neal, Lizzie Rice, and Anna Stockstill) headed to London for two weeks. These Chellows were enrolled in the course "The Age of Information," taught by former Chellgren Faculty Fellow Dr. James Brusuelas, which culminated in a two-week study abroad experience.



Touring University College, graduate alma mater of Mr. Paul Chellgren, with Dr. Robin Darwall-Smith

The fellows spent two days in Oxford, hearing a lecture by Dr. Gina Neff, Minderoo Center for Technology and Democracy, and enjoying lunch in the Balliol College Dining Room. We also toured Christchurch College. Unfortunately, the dining hall was in use for student exams so we didn't get to see the site of the Hogwarts sorting hat ceremony. On our second day in Oxford, we had the special privilege of visiting University College, the graduate alma mater of Mr. Paul Chellgren, and being given a private tour by Archivist Dr. Robin Darwall-Smith. The Chellgren Center has benefited greatly from the philanthropy and friendship of Paul and Deborah Chellgren and so we were delighted to take a commemorative photo there to share with the Chellgren family.

While in Cambridge, the group met with Luisa Clarke, Programme Manager of the Gates Cambridge Trust as well as two current Gates Cambridge Scholars. We also toured Churchill College with Churchill Scholar Naveen Raman. In London, we met with UK alumna and former Chellgren Fellow Chimene Ntakarutimana (who received the prestigious Marshall Scholarship in 2021) and had a wonderful tour of University College London, where Chimene is currently completing a master's degree. We were also delighted to be joined by Chimene the next day when we toured Bletchley Park, the site of so many developments discussed during the spring course. Chellows explored other parts of London in their free time, and most enjoyed a showing of A Midsummer Night's Dream at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.



Touring University College London with Chimene

This tight-knit group of Chellows is enthused to pursue the opportunities that await them after their trip to London and we hope all Chellows still on campus will investigate scholarship opportunities that support future study and travel in the United Kingdom. Check out our more of our United Kingdom adventures on the Chellgren Center's Facebook page!

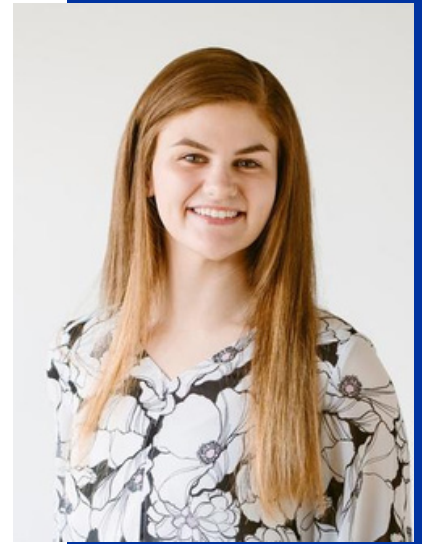


NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE AWARDS

The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards had another successful year connecting students and alumni with high impact opportunities. This year's winners included four Fulbright recipients, the university's first ever Luce Scholar, Taylor Hamilton (bottom right), and the highest number of NSF Graduate Research Fellows in recent memory.

Kayli Bolton (top right), a May 2023 biology graduate, was awarded the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship, UK's first since 2010. Kayli will use her scholarship to pursue a master's degree in medical science at the University of Cambridge.

Follow us on Instagram (@competitiveawards) for more on UK's award recipients.



Chellgren Fellow and biology major Isha Chauhan will spend part of her summer conducting research in Germany through the DAAD RISE program!

DAAD RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering through the German Academic Exchange Service) gives students an opportunity to research with one of Germany's top universities or research institutions.

Isha will be located at Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover (The University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover) in Hannover, Germany.

Isha was also awarded the Astronaut Scholarship this year, and is a previous recipient of the Goldwater Scholarship. Congratulations, Isha!

CHELLGREN FELLOW URGING RETURN OF KENYA'S STOLEN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Research experiences are a centerpiece of the Chellgren Fellows Program. At this spring's Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, Chellow Pascalle LeRoy presented the research poster "Protecting Cultural Heritage: Kenya's Memorial Statues (Vigango) and their Return Home" under the mentorship of Dr. Monica Udvardy in the Anthropology department.

The Vigango are ancestral statues that are erected once a member of a male 'secret' society called the Gohu passes away. They are located in the South-Eastern Hinterlands on Kenya's coast. These statues are culturally significant, but are being stolen almost as soon as they are erected because of the poor economic situation in Kenya and because these artifacts can be sold to Western arts and culture institutions. Dr. Udvardy and Pascalle are spreading awareness of this issue and urging collections with Vigango to return these pieces of material heritage. Learn more and donate to the Vigango Repatriation Project (VRP) using the QR code. Anything helps!



**ONE DAY
FOR UK**



WE DID IT! For the first time ever, the Chellgren Center participated in One Day for UK, the university's annual day of giving. Even though it was our first time participating, we won first place in the Small Programs and Centers Leaderboard!

Our goal for the day was to receive 15 donations, and we flew past that with 77 gifts from 57 different donors! In total, we raised \$7,380. These funds will be used to support travel for students to present research or interview for prestigious competitive awards.

We could not have done this without our incredible Chellow community of generous donors and alumni, like you. **THANK YOU** for giving generously, for sharing the news and for believing in our students. Paul Chellgren, founder of the Chellgren Center, gave \$5,000 to the cause. His steadfast generosity has inspired so many Chellows and it was a joy to watch that generosity come to fruition. We would also like to thank Don Witt and Ravyn Ladenburger in the Office of Philanthropy for their help and guidance with One Day for UK.

Thank you again for being part of this incredible community.

Edited by Chellgren Staff with
contributions by Helena Arjona and
Ella Brown-Terry, 2022 Chellows

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2022 CHELLGREN STUDENT FELLOWS
AND STAFF

STAY IN TOUCH



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