



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN

PARKSIDE

ACADEMIC
Achievement
AWARDS

May 15, 2021





ACADEMIC *Achievement* AWARDS

4 Congratulations

5 College of Arts and Humanities
5 Dean's Update | 6 Academic Awardees

10 College of Business, Economics, and Computing
10 Dean's Update | 11 Academic Awardees

13 College of Natural and Health Sciences
13 Dean's Update | 14 Academic Awardees

19 College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies
19 Dean's Update | 20 Academic Awardees

Academic Achievement Award Recipients,

Congratulations on your success! We are proud of your dedication to academic excellence at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. It is, as you know, more than a grade on an exam or your overall grade point average.

Achieving academic excellence is about what you learn and what you do with this knowledge. It is about working closely with our amazing faculty to better understand ways in which knowledge can be put to use to help others. And it is about your ability to remain focused on your goals – often in the face of adversity.

You have done this and that is why you were nominated and selected by UW-Parkside faculty for an Academic Achievement Award.

On behalf of the entire UW-Parkside learning community, including an important group of past Academic Achievement Award honorees – well done!

Dr. Deborah Ford
Chancellor

Dr. Rob Ducoffe
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs



Congratulations

College of Arts and Humanities

DEAN WALKER'S UPDATE

Back in June of 2020 when UW-Parkside was planning for an academic year with COVID, I challenged the College's faculty and staff to make this upcoming year an impactful and rich learning experience for our students. Faculty and staff exceeded all expectations. So many of our students had an amazing year, despite the pandemic. The academic year demanded that we reach deep into the well of our creativity and we did. There, we discovered extraordinary inventiveness and resilience. We could not be prouder of our students, faculty, and staff!

- Our Theatre Arts Department mounted five fully produced plays that were livestreamed to hundreds of viewers. One of these plays, *Stupid F**king Bird*, was selected by the Kennedy Center College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) to be viewed and critiqued by theater professionals. Students also had the opportunity to dialog with the playwright himself, Aaron Posner. Two students took first place at the regional competition in lighting and sound—Jessica Baker and Jack Purves. They are competing this month in the national finals, virtually, at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.
- The Music Department confronted the constraints of COVID by establishing a series of conversations and short concerts of recorded music by faculty and students, called *Melodious Mondays*. As with so many musical groups nationwide, they kept the music going via Facebook Live throughout the summer and spring. As part of the MM series, David Mason, principal violist of the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and this years Howard Brown Visiting Artist in Residence, regaled us with a concert in March.
- The Communication Department invited Monique Herena, Chief Colleague Experience Officer at American Express, to be their keynote speaker for Communication Week. The department hosts this event each year. It is organized by students as an opportunity for networking with communication professionals, who are usually UWP alumni. Ms. Herena was selected as the 2019 Distinguished Alumna in the College of Arts and Humanities.
- The Digital Media and Production (DMAP) team developed livestreaming internships for the academic year. Some 13 students from Theatre and Communication departments participated in this exceptional opportunity to learn to use digital cameras for livestreamed events. The students streamed concerts, plays, a musical, artist workshops, recruiting events and much, much more.
- Finally, we want to say another heartfelt congratulations to our Chancellor Awardee from the December 2020 graduation, Mariana Nelson (Graphic Design), and our two Outstanding Graduates for May 2021, Karolina Dryndak (Communication) and Kevin Phair (Liberal Studies).

STUDENT AWARDEES

ART AND DESIGN

Violet Alizabeth

Violet is a passionate, thoughtful, dedicated student who relishes all aspects of her education. She has a passion for making art and has a work ethic like few students. Violet is kind and thoughtful during class and critiques, and gives incredible feedback to her peers. She is consistently seeking dialog and criticism from faculty and peers about her style, concept, technical skills and contemporary discourse. Violet is always volunteering to help the Art and Design Department and has served on multiple CAH panels and has assisted our department with Art Day. She is a helper, a kind person and a great artist. Violet is a terrific student and a pleasure to have in class.

Janet Arriago

Janet is an excellent student, creating both quality artwork and written assignments. She manages all of this while dedicating so much of her time to her extended, multigenerational family. Even with the heavy impact COVID-19 had on her and her family, Janet still managed to earn excellent grades—and it was quite an achievement given that it would have been fair for her to request incompletes for some of her courses considering the specific circumstances. While Janet is earning her degree in Graphic Design, her studio artwork celebrates her heritage and background. A favorite subject explored in her studio work is Folklorico Dance, something she loved and participated in during her upbringing; she still dreams about it today!

Eve Bazzett

Eve is a delightful and totally unique individual, always curious and striving to make quality work. Her eagerness to learn has inspired her to pursue four different programs (a major, minor, and two certificates) covering three different departments—and she has inquired about the possibility of adding more! As she's progressed in her studies at UW-Parkside, she's acquired higher and higher grades, definitely earning a place to be recognized for achievement. In a recent ceramics course, she made a point to challenge herself to make one of the most complicated pieces of the semester. She is thoughtful to her peers and always makes an effort to be positive and supportive in the studio and classroom.

Rachel Behling

Rachel Behling is a thoughtful and hard-working student who is always prepared to contribute to class discussions. Her comments are always intelligent and show careful reflection on whatever material we are studying. She is also a very considerate and kind person who is a pleasure to have in class. Rachel is a talented and dedicated artist and gives great feedback to her peers and is truly a joy to have in class. She has maintained a 3.61 GPA showing that she has taken advantage of her opportunity at UW-Parkside to grow as a student.

Katie Bydalek

Katie is an exceptional student, entering Parkside with several AP credits secured, and then earning placement on the Dean's list every semester. She's also been on the Provost's list all but one semester—the first semester under COVID-19. While she's not always comfortable speaking in class, her written communications and assignments are always professional, thorough, thoughtful, and bright. Creating quality work in both her Art and Graphic Design courses, Katie also makes lovely illustrations independently, outside of class assignments. Her series of whimsical ceramic animals are among students' favorites.

Jessica Connor

Jessica is a thoughtful, diligent student, majoring in both English and Art, and has earned placement on both the Dean's and Provost's lists. Her creative work shows attention to detail and she is a wonderful community member in the studio, helping her peers with an encouraging attitude. Of particular note, Jessica navigates her heavy academic load while being the primary caregiver for a family member who struggles with a challenging disability and the pandemic required her to dedicate even more time to their care. Her perseverance through adversity and her positive attitude are inspirational.

Ashley Mogensen

Ashley Mogensen is truly a dedicated and talented student who is a joy to have in class. She has a passion for painting and has a work ethic that is contagious. She is engaged and an active artist that has produced a gallery ready series of paintings and will go on to have a successful career as a painter. Ashley is kind and thoughtful during class and critiques. She is consistently seeking dialog and criticism from faculty and peers about her style, concept and technical skills. Ashley is a spectacular student and a pleasure to have in class.

Ivan Morales

Ivan is a truly dedicated student who approaches his education with a passion, vigor and a work ethic that make him stand out amongst his peers. He is an engaged and active artist seeking to hone his skills via his education. Ivan consistently seeks meaningful dialog and criticism from his faculty and peers and has always been able to engage in a dialog about his style, concepts and aesthetic at a level that is far from superficial. Ivan continues to make conceptually and aesthetically solid designs that exceed expectations and is a pleasure to have in class.

Mallory Szymczak

Mallory is a pleasure to have in class. She is a thoughtful and well-rounded artist that consistently demonstrates a desire to create interesting work. She willingly experiments with differing and alternative theories and techniques and contributes to her classes via good questions and meaningful feedback. She never rests on her talent but instead works towards truly understanding and producing refined works. The Art Department is proud to have Mallory as a student.

COMMUNICATION

Adrian Ayala

Adrian is the student who drives himself forward through constant reflection especially as it comes to inquiry and real world views. He has learned to take his lived experiences and apply them in ways that help him understand what it means to be a college educated individual with clear goals for his future. In addition to his major, he is minoring in Public Relations, Organizational Communication, and Psychology, in addition to earning a certificate in Digital Media and Production. He is a community relations intern for EatStreet and has volunteered for the Shalom Food Pantry and Feed My Starving Children.

Erica Cecil

Erica Cecil is a talented and insightful individual who enhances the rigor and insights within classroom and professional discussions to critically reflect on issues related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, especially with respect to gender and LGBT issues. She is a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Honor Society and secretary and media representative of the UWP Rainbow Alliance, in addition to being a volunteer worker at the LGBT Resource Center of SE Wisconsin. She is an experienced event planner, having served as a Communication Department Event Planning intern and helping to organize two COMM Weeks (a Communication Department annual event).

Karolina Dryndak

Karolina has been on the Provost's and Dean's list every single semester of her time at UW-Parkside. She is vice-president of the Parkside Student Government and is

currently the digital and social media intern for Professional and Continuing Education, both of which are activities that are complementary to her minors in Organizational Communication and Public Relations. She is known for being a diligent and detail-oriented student who goes above and beyond what is expected. Publishing two articles in The Root Magazine and being an active participant in the 'Rebuilding Kenosha' community conversations on race are two examples of her commitment to service and excellence. She plans to apply her desire to help others through her professional career goal of being a human resources manager.

Hanna Fritz

After struggling for many years, Hanna has shown incredible resilience and strength to achieve academic excellence. In addition to majoring in Communication, she is earning a minor in Public Relations and a certificate in Digital Media Literacy. She is an aspiring disability advocate who is passionate about accessibility and inclusion. Her communication abilities are exceptional and she has crafted her writing to allow for an impressive presentation of insightful and complex ideas. She is currently a social media intern at a dog training facility. She plans to attend graduate school focusing on Disability Studies to pursue her dream career in policy reformation to increase accessibility for disabled individuals.

Leah Lucchetta

Leah makes a priority of being a positive influence and a source of support for her peers in the classroom by leading through example in producing the highest quality work and striving to enhance the educational experience for those around her. She is a natural leader, supportive classmate, and skillful writer with a passion for storytelling. As a hard-working individual who takes both her assignments and education seriously, she has had her work published in The Root Magazine (student magazine on Racine downtown, arts and culture). Leah joined UW-Parkside as a transfer student in 2019 and since that time, she's been recognized on both the Dean's and Provost's list. She plans to attend graduate school after finding a stable career in writing or graphic/visual design.

Adam Mulheron

Adam is a responsible, diligent student with outstanding writing skills with an interest in sports communication. He is committed to supporting sports, gender equality in sports, and youth education. He has supported these causes through his writing and service as a high school girls' basketball coach. He is currently in his second sports related internship. His current internship position is in sports media for Best Version Media through which he has published several articles, including one on the first female official in the NFL and Super Bowl. His goals are to pursue sports management and administration, in addition to continuing to be a sports coach.

Karen Nhol

Karen is an unassuming, inquisitive student who is academically active, minoring in Public Relations and Organizational Communication, earning a Digital Media Production certificate, and having completed a livestream broadcasting internship. For a class research project, she examined her lived experience as a Cambodian-American, whose parents were a part of the refugee group that relocated to the U.S. post Khmer Rouge. She explored her identity as a young American woman influenced by trends in U.S. culture while her home life reflected the historic remnants of a brutal regime that her parents risked their lives to escape to give her a chance at a better life. Her last name “Nhol” is the first name of her grandfather (now passed). When he came to the U.S., he changed his name with the hope of fitting in better to U.S. culture. She carries his spirit with her in her name everywhere she goes.

Sadie Vanderwall

Sadie is a dedicated student who constantly strives to advance her learning. In groups, she is a motivated leader and helps other students understand material and complete tasks on schedule. She is an excellent communicator in written, verbal, and aesthetic modalities. In addition to her major, she is minoring in Digital Media and Production. While many students seek an internship to complement their undergraduate studies, Sadie is in the process of completing her third internship. Her internships include: livestream broadcasting for the College of Arts and Humanities; social media and marketing for Habitat for Humanity; and, training and development for Scot Forge. She is the vice president for Sigma Lambda Gamma, their marketing and public relations chair, and event coordinator.

Emily Voykin

Emily is an impressive activist who has made great attempts to make a difference in the university. She is a strong gender rights advocate who has been a leading campus voice in support of the Women’s Center at UWP. She is a person who understands her strengths and how to access them to achieve her goals. She is experienced in marketing and event planning. Her communication abilities both oral and written make her an exemplary graduate. She has used her skills to help others—she is a writing tutor, has volunteered for a book bank to provide books and educational resources for children in need, and has volunteered at a dog rescue society.

ENGLISH**Jessica Connor**

A busy mom and full-time student, Jessica still enjoys volunteering at events that benefit children. Her English major is actually her second degree, as she already has a degree in Graphic Design and is known for using her design skills to help advertise community events. Family life has sometimes made Jessica’s adjustment to online learning a little challenging, but she has still managed the

change with aplomb. We appreciate her enthusiasm for her reading and writing and her perceptive contributions in class discussion.

Abbie Dawson

In spite of having little free time due to working over forty hours a week off-campus, Abbie is one of the strongest English majors in our program. She excels at reading, researching, and writing, but also at responding to peers in class and helping them to push ideas to their logical implications. This same quality makes her much sought after as a peer reviewer, as her commentary is always both generous and creative. She would like to pursue a career that keeps her in an academic environment, so career plans include graduate school, in either English or Library Science.

Shea Viononen

Shea dislikes fanfare and will probably hate our saying this, but the English faculty is unanimous in being impressed by her incredibly perceptive critical writing. In her papers, Shea achieves leaps of intuition that we have not thought of ourselves. It isn’t often that a student comes up with something entirely new to say about a literary work that a professor has been teaching for many years, yet this is a regular occurrence when you have Shea in your class.

LIBERAL STUDIES**Yvette Gamboa**

Yvette has an excellent record, earning all A’s in her last seven terms at UW-Parkside. While completing her degree entirely remotely (a challenge in itself), Yvette has juggled many other responsibilities, including working as a Behavioral Health Assistant in a 6th grade classroom, being the parent of five children, and helping close family members during various health crises. She has persevered through all of it, even when the obstacles seemed daunting. The Liberal Studies program is very proud of her efforts, her upcoming graduation secured through slow and steady diligence, and her positive attitude. We wish her well in her next chapter and intended goal: earning a master’s degree in Exceptional Student Education.

Kevin Phair

Kevin is an outstanding student and person. He has used his personal struggle with adversity to deepen his commitment to serve others. For Kevin, being a successful and dedicated student is only part of “a means to an end”—not the end goal in itself. The achievement Kevin seeks is about making a meaningful difference to those who need a thoughtful listener and an understanding, sensitive supporter. While completing his degree in the Liberal Studies program at UW-Parkside, Kevin’s research on social justice and its influences on communication has been impressive. As someone pursuing a career in mental health and counseling, Kevin’s commitment to empathizing with the lived experiences of his future patients and clients is highly admirable.

Rachel Stevenson

Highly motivated to advance her career and complete a degree launched 20 years ago, Rachel came back to UW-Parkside in the Liberal Studies program choosing social science and psychology as her concentration—and her academic efforts have been excellent! Currently working full-time as an administrative specialist within a local public school district, Rachel chose to research mental health and public education for her senior project. She will complete her degree and a certificate in Leadership this summer via professional internships. She plans to continue her work in public education, and will, undoubtedly, continue to make a positive impact on our community and the children she serves.

MUSIC

Abigail Lewis

Abby Lewis has proven to be a remarkably talented, industrious, serious and committed music major during her time at UW-Parkside. She is a Music Education major, with strong performance skills in both piano and voice. She is also one of the strongest academic students in departmental history with a GPA of 3.95. Abby has been an important member of University Chorale throughout her time here, and has also served as piano accompanist for many music students and many musical events. She is quick to volunteer her time and efforts to any departmental activity, and has become a valued and trusted role mentor for our younger students. When she graduates from UW-Parkside, she will undoubtedly become a role model and mentor for the next generation of music students in southeast Wisconsin, and will have established high musical and academic standards for future music students to emulate.

SPANISH

Gabrielle Richardson

Gabby is an exceptional student who consistently goes above and beyond what is expected both in and outside of the classroom. Her impressive professional and academic achievements—which include maintaining a 4.0 GPA and over 700 hours of community service to date since beginning at Parkside—are a reflection of this phenomenal commitment and dedication. To date, she has received numerous academic and community service awards; most recently, Gabby was the 2021 winner of The Big Idea Innovation Challenge for UW-Parkside in connection to the development of LinguaMD, a mobile app for interactions between healthcare professionals and patients with language, educational, or intellectual barriers.

This dedication to the Spanish language in the healthcare field and beyond also extends to her continued work as an interpreter in local clinics, Treasurer for the Spanish Language and Culture Club, and as a Spanish-English translator for Parkside's, The Root Magazine.

THEATRE ARTS

Jenny Bauer

A student designer and technician, Jenny is a very strong Theatre Arts major and committed company member who has maintained a strong GPA throughout her time at Parkside. She has built sets and served as master electrician on several Parkside theatre productions, and was a Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas scholarship recipient in 2020. Recently, Jenny was selected as a 2021 Region 3 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival finalist in the Design, Technology and Management Competition for her Master Electrician work, Romeo and Juliet.

Abby Kubik

A student design, technology and management focused major, Abby is a very committed member of the Theatre Arts major and company who has maintained a strong GPA throughout her time at Parkside. She has worked as a member of the stage management team on several Parkside theatre productions and was a 2021 Region 3 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival finalist in the Design, Technology and Management Competition for Stage Management, Stupid F##king Bird.

Jack Purves

A student sound designer, Jack is a very strong Theatre Arts major and committed company member who has maintained a strong GPA throughout his time at Parkside. He was the recipient of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 3 Design Excellence for Sound Design, and advanced to the national round of competition in Washington DC.

College of Business, Economics, and Computing

DEAN BALDWIN'S UPDATE

The faculty and staff of the College of Business, Economics, and Computing (CBEC) congratulate all of the Academic Achievement Award (AAA) winners. We applaud your outstanding accomplishments and marvel at your persistence, leadership, and ingenuity during this difficult time. CBEC achievements in 2020-2021 are due to the hard work of the students, faculty, and staff. The highlights include the following:

- CBEC students, again, made their mark at national competitions. In the fall, Cassidy Prucha won the Set Sail portion of the International Collegiate Sales Competition. Cassidy competed against 140 competitors in the competition and met with 23 companies over a two-week period to secure the victory. UW-Parkside's national reputation in sales continued in the spring. Chandler Spiewak is the National Shore Sales Competition champion. Chandler competed against 87 other students from universities such as Kansas, Penn State, Temple, and Florida State. Chandler was voted as the best student at the competition by industry judges. UW-Parkside's team finished fourth out of 44 teams at the competition. Finally, a team of Computer Science, MSCIS and MIS students finished in the top 25% of all teams in the National Cyber League cybersecurity competition. This is an outstanding showing in UW-Parkside's first appearance in this competition.
- Through the initiative and hard work of students, the App Factory has finally moved from a garage motif to a more modern workplace. Salina Servantez, a recent graduate in Computer Science and Psychology, led the remodeling effort to create App Factory 2.0 and coined the motto, "A woman-friendly design with everyone in mind." The App Factory continues to work on new types of projects, expanding into Internet of Things, Virtual Reality, and Data Analytics.
- CBEC continues its mission to work with the community. In addition to the App Factory, the Ralph Jaeschke Solutions for Economic Growth Center, ITPC, and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) makes an impact on the community. The SBDC helped 40 small business owners in Kenosha in 28 different industries in response to the Covid-19 recession. In addition, they worked with multiple Kenosha downtown business owners who were affected by the riots. CBEC looks forward to working with the new Center for Research in Innovation and Smart Cities, directed by Dr. George Vukotich.
- The business program went through a rigorous and successful continuous improvement review by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – International (AACSB) in the fall. As a result, AACSB accreditation was extended for the next five years. The process included a review of the Flex Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Flex BSBA). Flex BSBA is the only competency-based education (CBE) business program in the world that is accredited by AACSB and now it is the only CBE program that has gone through a successful AACSB continuous improvement review. Flex BSBA is designed to help non-traditional students obtain a business degree. We are grateful to the many CBEC students who participated in the process.
- The Human Resource Management concentration within the Business Management degree has been approved by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) as an Academically Aligned Program. This means that the program is listed in the SHRM directory and UW-Parkside students are eligible to apply for the SHRM-CP exam.

BUSINESS

Briana Martinez

Throughout Briana's academic journey, she has done much outside of the virtual classroom. She was a business development specialist for Mazda, was promoted to a business specialist for Chevrolet, and later advanced to the position of Business Development Manager for a German-based e-commerce company. She has signed an exclusive publishing deal with Warner Chappell (a division of the Warner Brothers conglomerate) to compose both Spanish and English music for various artists, including Shakira and Christina Aguilera. She has applied to eighteen law schools in the hopes of pursuing a career in both entertainment law and music composition. All this is in addition to working a full-time job, taking sometimes up to eight courses, and completing her entire undergraduate degree in roughly two years. She is a worthy recipient of this award for her excellent work within the Flex BSBA program and in the community.

Samantha Mechache

Upon starting at UW-Parkside, Samantha set out to finish her degree in two years with aspirations for promotion once completed. Not only is she on track to finishing her degree in two years, Samantha was also recently promoted to a Performance Management Strategist, a position that normally requires an undergraduate degree. Her new role is her fifth position in an upward-trending career journey with Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, her employer of nearly 10 years. While maintaining a 3.7 cumulative GPA, Samantha has applied her coursework in real-time to various aspects of her work. Concepts from business analytics, organizational behavior and leadership, marketing, productivity in operations, and strategic management have inspired her work implementing strategic level changes at the hospital. Staying the course to her goals while aspiring for more, Samantha is a beacon of persistence and excellence in her academic and professional endeavors.

ECONOMICS

Molina Bui

Molina is completing a major in Economics, the Pre-Med preparation program, and a Health Psychology minor. Her campus service has been extensive. Molinna serves as: chair of the Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council; a MOSAIC Educator in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs; a Peer Health Educator; Pre-Health Club Vice-President; PSGA Senator; and, Biology Club

Secretary. She plans to attend medical and law school to obtain her MD/JD degrees and then start-up her own free/federally-subsidized clinic for underserved populations. Molinna's mission is to embrace and cultivate equity and inclusion in everything that she does, and in particular, to provide accessible and affordable healthcare for everyone, regardless of their background. Molinna believes that her Economics major will complement her future MD/JD degrees, help her understand socioeconomic trends within the healthcare sector, become a better patient advocate, and contribute to reforming the U.S. healthcare system.

Rosie Deleon

Rosie is completing a major in Economics, a minor in Business Management, and a certificate in Project Management. To support herself and finance her education, Rosie has been working more than 30 hours per week and carrying a full course load. She has been continuously enrolled in UWP courses (winterim, spring, summer, and fall) for the past two years. Her grit and determination has served her well. Rosie has successfully balanced the demands from her off-campus jobs with the demands from her courses (i.e., she has achieved an "efficient work-education equilibrium" in terms of economics jargon). In the next ten to fifteen years, Rosie plans to combine her economics and business knowledge with her passion for exercise and physical fitness and open her own fitness and wellness center, so that others may attain their own mental and physical balance. More immediately, Rosie will be applying to Uline's Business Development program.

Alyssa Laxson

Alyssa is completing a major in Economics with the Monetary and Financial Economics concentration and a minor in Mathematics. Alyssa will be continuing her education in the fall by enrolling in UW-Parkside's online MBA program and its Data Analytics concentration. She has participated in a number of outreach activities sponsored by UW-Parkside Athletics; she particularly likes working with and mentoring young female athletes through summer softball camps. With another year of sports eligibility, Alyssa plans to continue playing third base (or other infield positions) on UW-Parkside's softball team next fall. Alyssa hopes to pursue either a position as a data or financial analyst in the financial sector or to become an actuary.

Satyam Malik

Satyam is an international student from New Dehli, India, who will be completing an Economics major with the Monetary and Financial Economics concentration and a Business Management major with the Finance concentration. He has successfully adapted to the U.S. higher education system and has made the Dean's list six times and the Provost's list five times. Satyam has been an intern for various financial institutions and has

worked on financial projects involving PPG Industries and Inflexio Consulting Pvt. Ltd. (Gujarat, India). Satyam plans to remain in the U.S. under the Optional Practical Training employment authorization in order to gain experience and continue his studies through the CFA Program, which is offered by the CFA Institute and is designed to develop the investment analysis and portfolio management skills that are needed in the investment management sector of the economy. Satyam is well on his way to becoming a financial analyst.

Marissa Menchaca

Marissa graduated cum laude in December 2020, having completed an Economics major with the Monetary and Financial Economics concentration and a Biological Sciences minor. After transferring to UW-Parkside, she made the Dean's list five times and the Provost's list three times. Marissa stated recently that "Economics just opened my eyes even more to how understanding your own economic decisions, as well as firms' economic decisions, can help you make better choices in the long run. I now see the world through a lens of opportunity costs, and I cannot stop!" She has relocated to St. Louis and is currently completing an accelerated training program to become a licensed securities trader for a major bank or other financial institution. Her long run goal is to obtain a position at a Federal Reserve Bank that involves analyzing economic data and formulating macroeconomic policies.

Jessica Myjak

Jessica is completing both an Economics major and a Mathematics major, two of the more challenging majors at UW-Parkside. Jessica's 4.0 cumulative GPA reveals that she is extremely intelligent, hard-working, and highly motivated. Through an internship with a large bank in northern Illinois, Jessica has been working with small businesses that are attempting to survive the pandemic by participating in the 2020 CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program. She is interested in obtaining an analyst position in which she would construct and estimate investment and forecasting models. As exemplified by her involvement with the Girls on the Drum, an initiative to help middle school girls learn percussion and gain confidence in a male-dominated area, and her efforts to become an Adult Literacy Tutor specializing in math, Jessica strives to lower barriers and empower people. Eventually, Jessica hopes to build a company that helps the developmentally disabled in her community.



College of Natural and Health Sciences

DEAN OTU'S UPDATE

When we went on the covid-19 pandemic lockdown in March 2020, research was halted. The fate of research animals and plants were a big concern. Faculty and students, especially those working on their research and planning to graduate were in panic. We responded by sorting through the many projects, working with faculty and students to designate many as 'essential staff' of the university. Doing so brought relief. We also had to grapple with the numerous students whose internship sites closed or went virtual. Still, we worked out an arrangement for each student to get this high impact experience. Working with the Provost's covid-19 restart team, a 'Research Continuity Task force' swiftly made recommendations that would allow faculty and students engaged in research to return to their laboratories in a logical and organized manner. Over summer 2020 faculty/research students, who felt comfortable and wanted to do so, returned to their research laboratories.

- The 6th Annual Community and Alumni event was hosted virtually with livestreaming. The event offered six topical areas: (I) Forever Chemicals: The Next Generation Threat; (II) Racial Equity and Environmental Justice; (III) Exercise Science Professions in the Era of Covid-19; (IV) Covid-19 Pandemic from the Front Lines; (V) Social Stigma and Mental Well-Being in the face of a Pandemic; and (VI) COVID-19 and Sports. Each of the six topics had three breakout sessions. The event culminated with a plenary on Climate Change.
- Associate Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Francis Mann, was named the 2020 Carl Gulbrandsen Innovator of the Year and will receive the UW System 2021-2022 Regent Scholar Award; Assistant Professor of Physics, Dr. Bom Soo Kim, received the 2020-2021 WiSys Spark grant for his project "Improving the accuracy of the chiral magnetic skyrmion motion in the racetrack memory devices," with funding to support undergraduate research students at UW-Parkside; Two of Parkside's Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics (MBB) students earned American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASMB) certification with distinction, and one MBB student earned ASBMB certification. Of the 926 students in ASBMB-accredited programs who took the exam nationwide, 374 (40.4%) achieved certification. A total of 154 of these (16.6% of the total) achieved certification with distinction; Two issues of the Parkside Journal of Science were published. A very first of its kind, a journal edited entirely by CNHS students under the supervision of Assistant Professor of Physics, Dr. Hom Kandel.
- The renovation of GRNQ 220 into an interactive classroom and GRNQ 370 into a biotechnology laboratory is nearing completion. The former space will enable an increase in the Nursing Clinical Phase admittance by up to 60%.
- The college rolled over its 2014-2019 Strategic Plan to 2020-2025, with minor tweaks. Even within the restrictions imposed on the world by the covid-19 pandemic, faculty, instructional academic staff and staff in the college strove to excellence as described below.
- In addition to the scramble to ensure research students completed their work to meet Spring 2020 graduation, and animals and plants were cared for during the pandemic, a Task Force on Research Continuity met and quickly drew up guidelines for faculty and students to return to research/creative work in a safe way.
- Dr. Melissa Gregg is a Co-PI on a recently awarded grant from the National Science Foundation: Project Title: Essential Decision-Making Skills for the Future Workforce in Smart Manufacturing Co-PI's: Drs. Theresa Castor and Peggy James.
- Dr. Sandra Millon-Underwood received the American Cancer Society Champion of Hope Award for her contributions to advancing the Society's mission and helping save lives from cancer. Dr. Underwood has dedicated her career to addressing cancer disparities by connecting women, at-risk, and medically underserved minority populations to cancer prevention and early detection information and programs. She has also received research funding from the American Cancer Society, including a Professorship of Oncology Nursing in 1998.

STUDENT AWARDEES

APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Maegan Brookins

Maegan has been a scholarship athlete in softball during her entire career at UW-Parkside. She has gained hundreds of hours of healthcare related experiences including physical therapy experience at Athletico and Aspirus Divine Savior Hospital and an Internship in the field of public health at the Kenosha County Health Department. Along with her health-related experiences, she has volunteered her time at several local organizations. After graduation, Maegan is considering a career in public health including potentially pursuing a master's degree.

Thomas Burinda

Thomas will be graduating from UW-Parkside in the Fall of 2021 after spending two and one-half years here completing his degree in Applied Health Science and qualifying for a minor in Biological Sciences. During his time here, Thomas has been very productive. Not only is he an exceptional student earning a very impressive 3.78 GPA, but he has also been gaining significant hours in the healthcare field. Most recently, he has been working as an emergency room technician at All Saints Hospital in Racine, where he has been getting hands-on experiences in the medical field, shadowing physicians, and observing several different types of medical procedures – and is loving it. He also somehow found the time to be the President and Founder of the Ballroom Dancing Club! His current plan is to apply to and attend medical school upon graduation with the hope of becoming an ER physician.

Tyler Loeding

Tyler is an outstanding student, completing his major in Applied Health Sciences with a Pre-Physical Therapy concentration with a spectacular 3.69 GPA. In addition to his strong academic performance, he has been heavily involved in his community in a variety of capacities. On the healthcare front, Tyler has worked for the past three years as a Certified Nursing Aide at Arbor View Communities and has logged over 100 hours at in-patient and out-patient physical therapy facilities as a physical therapy technician. He served in student government, was involved in intramural sports, and spent his other free time volunteering at the Shalom Center. Tyler is deeply committed to helping those around him and will be beginning his formal training to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy this Fall at the University of Jamestown in North Dakota.

Alex Markley

Alexis is an excellent student who will be graduating in the Fall of 2021 with her degree in Applied Health Sciences and minor in Biological Sciences. With a very impressive 3.59 GPA here at UW-Parkside, Alexis has dedicated her life to helping others in need of healthcare. During her time here, Alexis has at various times: served as a physical therapy aide for just over one year, volunteered in the Emergency Room/Department at Beloit Healthcare Systems, gained over forty hours shadowing healthcare professionals, and most recently, has been working on the front lines during the COVID pandemic as a Certified Nursing Assistant. If that wasn't enough, she is also CPR-certified and a Certified Medical Technician. It is her plan to gain acceptance into a Masters of Physician Assistant program after graduation.

Onergis Martinez

Though he has only been at UW-Parkside for a short time, Onergis has made quite the impression on our campus. Graduating in the Fall of 2021, Onergis has established himself as a very strong student, earning an impressive 3.74 GPA. In addition to his strong academic record, he has an equally impressive record of service to his community. Whether it has been volunteering his time with Special Olympics, working with patients at Tender Touch Therapy in Adaptive Sport Events, or leading senior citizens in exercises, Onergis is clearly committed to helping others and giving back to his community. Furthermore, he has gained hundreds of hours working in the field of physical therapy and plans on applying to a Doctor of Physical Therapy program after graduation.

Samantha Nickell

Samantha is an outstanding student who will be graduating in the Fall of 2021 with her Applied Health Science major (Pre-Physical Therapy concentration) and a spectacular 3.95 GPA. While that level of performance in this rigorous major is extremely impressive, it rises to outstanding when you also consider that Samantha has earned this while also being a scholarship women's soccer athlete during her entire career and being named Team Captain for three of those years. The amount of dedication, sacrifice, and discipline required to excel in both of these arenas is significant – and she has done this at an extremely high level. In addition, Samantha has volunteered at many local events and organizations and somehow, also found a way to gain hundreds of hours of experience as a physical therapy technician/aide for the past three years. She plans to apply for acceptance to Doctor of Physical Therapy programs upon graduation.

Nicholas Vulich

Nick is an outstanding student who will be graduating this May with his Applied Health Sciences degree and an absolutely stellar 3.87 GPA. While this is impressive in its own right, it jumps to stellar when you consider that over his past four semesters, Nick has earned a perfect 4.0 - during a global pandemic, and a transition to 100 percent online classes. When Nick began his career at UW-Parkside, he was planning to become a chiropractor, however, as a result of the hundreds of hours of healthcare experiences that he has gained in general healthcare clinics, hospitals, chiropractic offices, and physical therapy clinics, he has found his passion in the field of physical therapy. Upon graduation, he plans to begin a Physical Therapy Assistant Program to continue pursuing the profession he loves.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Adam Ghouse

Adam is great student who often makes significant positive contributions to the classroom environment. He is an active participant in class, asks good questions during class and shows an interest in learning that goes well beyond the minimum required to get a good grade. For Adam, this interest also extends past his stated career interests but applies to just about any course or activity he takes on. In addition to performing at the highest standard for coursework, Adam was accepted as a prestigious RUSCH Scholar at UW-Madison, where he refined his medical research skills in preparation for his post-graduate success.

Carolyn Soukup

During her time at UW-Parkside, Carolyn has not only performed at the highest level of academic achievement but has done so while also balancing the demands of being a Division II athlete as a valued member of the Women's Soccer team. She is a highly motivated and organized student who has shown a great aptitude for research during her time working in Dr. Richard's lab.

Grace Wampole

Grace is a highly motivated student who excelled in all her courses in the biological sciences. Although her graded course work is superlative, Grace adds real value to the classroom by often asking insightful and clarifying questions of the course content. In addition, she is an active participant in classroom discussions and often takes a leadership role in group settings. Ms. Wampole also demonstrates the natural curiosity and intellectual rigor needed to have a successful career as a research scientist and has already started producing quality work – including work with several faculty members to design an investigation into the relationship between bat feeding activity and the behavior of their insect prey, the results of which will presented at a national meeting.

CHEMISTRY

Matthew Natschke

Matthew is a fantastic student. He is dedicated to his studies and to deeply understanding the material. Impressively, Matthew is tackling a double major in two of the sciences: Chemistry and Environmental Studies. This is not an easy task, and yet, Matthew has performed well arriving on time and ready with well thought out questions. Matthew is actively engaged in the classroom and works well with other classmates on group projects. He is working his way through College and, in addition, served in the Natural Products Laboratory and participated in an independent study where he worked to optimize an IC/ICPMS for the quantitation of chromium in beverages.

Mya Peterson

Mya is interactive, personable, works well in a team environment, and is respected by her instructors, colleagues and peers. While Mya was an exemplary Chemistry student, her success extends beyond the classroom. Her undergraduate research project focused on solving a real-world problem, and was the winner of the 2019 Big Idea competition. She has performed numerous service activities for the University including serving on Search and Screen Committees, being a Supplemental Instructor, serving on the College of Natural and Health Sciences Student Advisory Council, and volunteering for the Girls Empowering Math and Science program. Her interactive personality, enthusiastic attitude, and ability to communicate effectively make her a role model to both her peers and future university students alike.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Brock Eves

Brock is an excellent student having never earned a grade lower than a B+, particularly impressive given his dual degrees in Environmental Studies and Applied Environmental Geography. He worked as a student research assistant under Dr. Wolf in Geography. In this capacity, he has illustrated leadership abilities through his willingness to take on the calibration of a new weather station to collect data pertinent to vegetation growth and water quality. He is highly competent to work in a research setting which involves critical thinking in ecology, management, and data analysis. Likewise, Brock's dedication to his studies is impressive as it weaves the complexities of the natural environment into powerful technologies such as GIS.

Jackie Gonzalez

Jackie Gonzalez recently transferred to Parkside and has excelled in her studies as an Environmental Studies major with a concentration in Environmental Biology. Despite coming into Parkside during a pandemic and having to take many online courses, she has been praised for being a

collegial presence in her courses and has been incredibly helpful to other students. She has taken challenging quantitative classes well beyond those required for the Environmental Studies program. Particularly in her biology courses, her writing has stood out among her peers, and she has often brought an interesting perspective to the issues she has encountered in her courses.

Garrett LaBreche

Garrett is an exemplar student athlete and Environmental Studies major. He has successfully balanced maintaining a high GPA with playing on Parkside's Men's Baseball team. He managed the abrupt transitions of spring 2020, caused both by his transfer to Parkside and the COVID-19 pandemic, and excelled in challenging upper-level courses. In class, whether in-person or virtual, his instructors have called him highly engaged and inquisitive. As an Environmental Studies major with a concentration in Environmental Geography, Garrett has shown keen interest in understanding the connections between earth processes and human impacts.

GEOSCIENCES

Jessica Baker

Jessica earned a GPA of 3.93. She participated in a research project on using clay materials to remove color dye from water in Spring 2020 and received a student research fellowship from CNHS. She is the co-author of two peer-reviewed papers and is currently working on a project funded by WiSys. Her cutting-edge research is notable.

Kristen Carlson

Kristen has a GPA of 3.58. As a Geoscience major she has devoted much effort to personal and social responsibilities. She is currently the president of the Geoscience Club. She is active in Root River and Pike River research and community engagement and at the REC Center in Racine over the summer before the pandemic. She also participated in a research project on using clay materials to remove color dye from water supported by a diversity grant funded by Human Resources. She is also the co-author of a peer-reviewed paper.

Michael Troedel

Michael has a GPA of 3.59. He has extensive experience in practical applications of Environmental Geosciences. He helped peer students understand practices in geology. He participated in a research project on using clay materials to remove color dye from water in Spring 2020 and is the co-author of a peer-reviewed paper. Michael is an active participant in major classes such as Environmental Geology and Remediation Science and Technology. His in-depth knowledge in Geosciences and extensive application of Geosciences to environmental applications are commendable.

HEALTH KINESIOLOGY SPORT MANAGEMENT

Ashley Borgardt

Ashley is an outstanding student that will be completing her Exercise Science major and Community-Based Learning certificate in May of 2021. Ashley's strong work ethic and enthusiasm to learn has provided her great success throughout her UW-Parkside career, including a 3.82 GPA and multiple appearances on the Dean's and Provost's lists. Ashley currently works as a physical therapy technician since 2020, and she hopes to further pursue the physical therapy profession upon graduation. Not only has Ashley been dedicated in the classroom and professionally, but she has managed to be actively engaged within the community volunteering with local cross country/track teams, local food pantries, and fitness assessments as well.

Sundus Ewis

Sundus will graduate with a degree in Sport Management. She has spent two years on our campus after transferring in from Milwaukee Area Technical College. Sundus is an exceptional student who demonstrates skill and dedication in every activity she takes on. Her prowess in the classroom is highlighted by the fact that she has been named to the Provost list and the Dean's list every semester she has been on our campus. In addition to her extensive classroom achievements, Sundus has also experienced a great amount of professional success to date. She was the Elementary Girls Basketball Coach at the Salam School in Milwaukee. Sundus has also completed several notable and very successful internships with the ROC Ventures organization including separate stints with the Milwaukee Wave soccer team, Milwaukee Milkmen baseball team, and with ROCK Tournaments. She was also active on-campus as a member of the Muslim Student Association.

Olivia Greener

Olivia will graduate with a degree in Sport Management, a minor in Coaching and a certificate in Community Engagement. She is an exemplary student who demonstrates phenomenal skill and dedication in every activity she undertakes. Her strong classroom work is illustrated by the fact that she has been named to the Provost list five times and has been named to the Dean's list every semester on campus. In addition to her extensive classroom achievements, Olivia has been a noted campus leader at UW-Parkside first serving as an Academic Success Coordinator followed up by a two-year stint as a Resident Advisor. Her service work continued off-campus as she engaged in a variety of community activities including stints at the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha, the Shalom Center and Allay Home & Hospice. During summer 2020, Olivia completed a very successful internship with the Milwaukee Milkmen baseball team.

Ricky Liederbach

Ricky Liederbach is an Exercise Science major with a focus on strength and conditioning. He comes to UW-Parkside after obtaining an associate degree in Business Management from Gateway Technical College. He is interested in the best way to exercise to improve health and endurance. He has a passion for helping to develop our community through exercise, health, and wellness. He has gained from fieldwork experiences in exercise program design, face-to-face and online, and in social marketing for personal training. In the future, Ricky hopes to be a personal trainer in his own facility. In his free time, Ricky loves to do motocross.

PSYCHOLOGY

Abby Carlton

During her time as a Psychology major at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Abby has excelled in her classes. She has pursued multiple certificates in the major (Neuroscience, Human Measurement and Research) demonstrating her commitment to specializing within the field. As a result of her efforts, Abby has been named to the Dean's and Provost's lists and has also been actively engaged in psychological research in Dr. McGinley's lab over the past two semesters. She has served as a reliable and integral member of the cross-institutional coding team seeking to understand the content of emerging adults' autobiographical memories of parents. Notably, Abby took responsibility for preparing an abstract with the initial findings of this qualitative coding project and will be presenting these results in the upcoming UW-Parkside Showcase.

Dora Contreras

Dora did excellent work in her classes with Dr. Bowden and always participated actively asking questions and volunteering answers. She always seemed fully engaged and interested in taking the information presented in class to a higher level. In addition, Dora worked well with other students helping them achieve a better understanding of the material. Dora is a highly regarded student by her professors. The Psychology department looks forward to updates on what is sure to be a very successful career path for her after graduating from Parkside. Congratulations Dora!

Ashley Czubinski

Ashley is an exceptional student, and the faculty in the Psychology department have enjoyed having her as a student. Ashley is also a promising young researcher. She has been conducting research in the Perception, Cognition, and Neuroscience lab for about a year and has taken the lead on an extensive research project in the lab with enthusiasm and determination. Ashley plans to pursue a degree in Clinical Psychology after graduating from UW-Parkside. On behalf of the Psychology department, we look forward to receiving updates on her continued success after graduation.

Lexi Davis

Lexi is a strong student and active member of the Psychology department. She is exceptionally self-motivated, having made the Dean's and Provost's lists and taking a heavy course load. Lexi is a strong leader who gets along well with her peers. For the past year, she served as the Psychology Club's Vice President, where she has worked together with a small group of officers to bring guest speakers and new events to students. She always brings good ideas to the club and is eager to help in getting work done to meet the club's needs. In addition, Lexi has been an integral leader in the club's efforts to conduct a survey of student mental health and experiences with COVID-19. Lexi plans to attend graduate school in Psychology.

Jenna Eschner

As a Psychology and Criminal Justice major, Jenna has excelled in her classes at UW-Parkside. As a result of her efforts, Jenna has been named to the Dean's and Provost's lists and has demonstrated a commitment to research over the past two semesters as an active member in Dr. McGinley's lab. During this time, Jenna has investigated topics including adverse childhood experiences, parent and peer attachment, emotional dysregulation, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Jenna is currently proposing a study where she will collect data in order to examine her research questions on these topics. Outside of UW-Parkside, Jenna is a Residential Care Specialist in the PTSD/Trauma Recovery unit at Rogers Behavioral Health. Here, she supports residents by providing skills intended to help residents manage their emotions. Through her conversations with Dr. McGinley it has been apparent that Jenna's passion to better serve traumatized populations has driven her insightful research questions.

Kristina Gilewski

Kristina's achievements as a psychology major and communications minor at UW-Parkside have been admirable. Kristina has consistently demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom, expressed her curiosity about psychology in meaningful conversations outside the classroom, and has gained research experience through independent research opportunities. As a result of these efforts, Kristina has been frequently named to the Dean's and Provost's lists. Given her work experience as a Behavioral Health Technician for the Wisconsin Early Autism Project and After School Teacher with the Kenosha YMCA, Kristina's work outside the classroom is a testament to her desire to help others in her community.

Miranda Johnson

Professor Gregg had Miranda in multiple classes and also briefly in her research lab. She attests to her excellence as a student who is hard-working, thoughtful, and kind to her peers and others. In classes, Miranda produces high-quality work highlighting her exceptional writing skills and her ability to engage in thoughtful, insightful discussion.

In research, she was eager to work and learn and showed dedication to pursuing any opportunity to help others. She has been a joy to have as a student and no doubt has a bright future ahead of her.

Muhammad Khokhar

Muhammad is an exceptional student and the faculty in the Psychology department have enjoyed having him in their classes. His academic performance has consistently impressed his professors. The Psychology department looks forward to receiving updates on Muhammad's continued success after graduation. Congratulations Muhammad!

Courtney McFeters

Courtney is an exceptional student and the faculty in the Psychology department have enjoyed having her in their classes. Her academic performance has consistently impressed her professors. She is one of a very small number of students who often receives a perfect score on her exams, and she has a near-perfect GPA. Courtney always asks thoughtful questions and expresses interesting ideas in class, and she is always smiling and optimistic. The Psychology department looks forward to receiving updates on her continued success after graduation. Congratulations Courtney!

Frank Patino

Frank is an excellent student. He asks insightful questions, offers relevant experiences of his own, and produces well written and thoughtful papers. He also works well with other students, modeling a mature and focused approach to learning. Frank's performance in Psychology has been excellent, including both research and applied areas, which is consistent with his high achievement overall. This, in addition to the thoughtfulness he displays in class, speaks well for his achievements after UW-Parkside. Congratulations Frank!

Marissa Piccolo

Marissa's achievements as a psychology major at UW-Parkside are commendable. In Professor Gregg's upper-level psychology class, for example, Marissa consistently demonstrated academic excellence throughout the semester. Her Infant Development observational research paper was so perfectly executed in terms of APA-style and content that it now serves as a model paper in this course. Marissa, as a result of her efforts, has been named to the Dean's and Provost's lists. Marissa has also demonstrated a commitment to helping others through her work as peer mentor at Gateway Technical College, where she advocates for students with disabilities through the Trio Achiever's Group program.

Elizabeth Renguet

Throughout her time as a psychology student at UW-Parkside, Elizabeth's work has been exemplary. For example, one course project required Elizabeth to create an outreach video on a topic regarding infant safety. Her slides and communication style made it clear that she had both mastered the material and reflected on the language needed to communicate scientific information to a lay audience. On a more traditional APA-style report, Elizabeth was able to expertly synthesize multiple sources using a sophisticated and scientific writing style. In addition to being named to the Dean's and Provost's lists, Elizabeth was recently accepted into the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master's Degree program at UW-Parkside. She will be attending the program this fall. Elizabeth's future plans are to become a children's counselor, and to work with children who are dealing with trauma.

Sarai Roberts

Sarai is a highly intelligent and insightful student. Sarai did outstanding work in the classes she took with Dr. Bowden. Sarai consistently produced high-quality work and produced papers that were clear, well organized, incisive, and to the point. Though often quiet in class, Sarai demonstrated an excellent ability to work with others in a way that elicited everyone's best performance. On behalf of the Psychology department, we look forward to receiving updates on Sarai's continued success after graduation. Congratulations Sarai!

Victoria Schantz

Victoria is both an excellent student and researcher. As a student, Victoria excels in class discussions and group work. She takes charge in small group activities in class, and provides insightful comments and questions in discussions. She consistently appears on both the Dean's and Provost's lists, and has worked in Professor Gregg's research lab for three semesters. In the lab, she has collaborated to design and test a psychological intervention to prevent body image problems and associated behaviors. Victoria has excelled in research design and scientific writing, having synthesized research findings to create strong intervention materials. Victoria plans to attend medical school after graduation.

College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies

DEAN JAMES' UPDATE

The College of Social Sciences and Professional Studies congratulates all of the Academic Achievement Awardees. Together we have all demonstrated the resilience, persistence, and sometimes sheer stubbornness of our campus community as we continue to learn and to serve despite significant public health challenges. Just like you, I am reminded of Captain Kirk, when he said "Our species can only survive if we have obstacles to overcome.... Without them to strengthen us, we will weaken and die." After this year, we are truly strong. We can highlight some of our major accomplishments and partnerships.

- CSSPS partnered with the Center for Business and Civic Engagement to do the 2020 Election Experience. Faculty from across campus did brown bags on politics and the voting experience, four student interns led voter registration events (including our Pumpkin Patch event!), signature events with Fair Maps, Charles Franklin (MU Law School Polls) and Courageous Conversations with Kenosha Coalition for Dismantling Racism made our campus aware, involved, and engaged.
- CSSPS continued its leadership in serving the Hispanic Community on and off campus. Descubre Parkside, a Spanish language recruitment event for middle schoolers, went virtual this year with 25 families attending. In Spring, CSSPS partnered to offer our second Voz del Pueblo, to facilitate critical and constructive conversations surrounding the Parkside experience. As of Spring 2021, 20% of our students are Hispanic!
- Center for Research in Innovation and Smart Cities opened in Spring 2021, with Founding Director Dr. George Vukotich. With a mission to work with government, businesses, universities, and citizens, the center began groundbreaking work in smart city initiatives, economic development, and technology training for the future.

STUDENT AWARDEES

IPED

Brianna Burgeson

It is a pleasure to recommend Brianna Burgeson. Brianna was a student in many of my classes at UW-Parkside, including ESL Methods, Introduction to Second Language Acquisition, and Research Methods. She is on track to earn an ESL minor and an ESL license. She will be well prepared to serve diverse children when she is a teacher of record in her own classroom. Brianna is a very strong student. She has earned As with me in all of her classes; her overall performance at UW-Parkside has earned her a spot on the Provost's List, which is reserved for students with grade point averages over 3.8. She was very engaged with the course content and, as I mentioned above, fully participated in all of her classes. She was punctual with her attendance and assignments, and worked well in small groups. These skills and dispositions will make Brianna a very effective teacher in the future.

Mia Derse

An Elementary Education major with a minor in History, Mia has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout her college career. She is currently completing her student teaching at Nash Elementary School in Kenosha and will be eligible for a license in Middle Childhood-Early Adolescence regular education upon graduation. Mia is a distinguished collaborator, both in her student and teacher roles, and has been recognized for her ability to build strong relationships with students, peers, and colleagues. In addition to her outstanding work in the field, Mia has been the deserving recipient of the Frances A. Jaeschke Endowed Scholarship.

Sara Kubiszewski

Sara seeks excellence in all she does, whether an enormous novel undertaking or minimal routine task. She sees each as an opportunity to do her very best. In seeking excellence, she also demonstrates humility and a sincere willingness to learn from her others, professor and peers alike. Sara, an elementary education major, seeks to deeply understand and connect with new learning, a trait that will serve her as a teacher and lifelong learner. As a classmate, she was a sought-after group member who clearly enjoyed collaborating and delighted in individual and collective successes. Her commitment to continuous improvement and being a reflective practitioner are evidenced in her outstanding academic work and classroom interactions. As she embarks on her teaching career, Sara's many strengths will continue to serve her and her future students and learning communities.

Emma LaForge

As UW-Parkside's first Early Childhood Education major, Emma has demonstrated success both as a Parkside student and in working towards her Applied Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. She is currently completing her student teaching at Nash Elementary School in Kenosha. Emma has been teaching her first grade students in a virtual format, creating engaging and exciting ways to connect to students from a distance. She has been described by cooperating teachers as being both flexible and patient with her young students and has demonstrated exceptional skill at transferring theories and models into practice in her own teaching.

Ashley Pavlak

Ashley Pavlak is a promising new teacher and expert in the content of English Language Arts. She has been an exceptional student and leader in both her Education and English courses. She received a Special Recognition award of \$50 from the Center for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies for Theresa Peck based on her outstanding essay submission. Ashley engages with her professors and colleagues in her classes, participating in thoughtful ways during every class meeting. This is further made evident through her GPA of 3.954. She has a true passion for both teaching and her content area, which is the foundation of a strong teacher. When out in her clinical placements, Ashley has been praised by her mentor teachers for her deep commitment to teaching, learning about her students, and managing the many responsibilities of teaching.

Laura Siwula

Laura has very strong interpersonal skills. She gets along with all of her classmates and is adept at participating in classroom discussions. Laura has made many engaging class presentations; in particular, she is an effective communicator. Laura has a very steady demeanor which will serve her well when she becomes a teacher of record in her own classroom. Furthermore, Laura is a strong student. She has earned As in all of her ESL minor classes. She was very engaged with the course material and fully participated in all of her classes. She was punctual with her attendance and assignments, and worked well in small groups. These skills and dispositions will make Laura a very effective teacher in the future. Laura is particularly well-prepared to serve English Language Learners (ELLs). She knows how to scaffold and differentiate content and make it comprehensible for ELLs. She has completed all six of the courses required for the ESL minor and will be certified as an ESL teacher in addition to her elementary education certification.

SOCIOLOGY

Denisse Ochoa

Denisse is a sincere and hardworking student who shows tremendous determination to excel. She has faced quite a few challenges and her persistence in overcoming those barriers was impressive. A single mother, working full-time, and going to school full-time, Denisse continues to be goal-driven and excel in her academics. Passionate about Sociology, Denisse loves to engage in class discussions. She is inquisitive, asks insightful questions, and is keen to explore the intricacies of social inequality. Her thoughtful writings not only demonstrate a deep and nuanced understanding of sociological variables but also her eagerness to examine the structures of society including the intersectionality of race, class, and gender. She has appeared on the Dean's list and plans to continue her education by earning a master's degree and serve her community.

Robert Rock

Robbie is an exceptionally hardworking student who shows tremendous determination to excel. He started his college career at Gateway Technical College and always knew he wanted to go to Parkside someday. He found a job working in Kenosha Unified School District where he confirmed his passion to work with students. This inspired him and helped him create a path to becoming a teacher. He is graduating in May 2021 with a bachelor's degree and then plans to pursue his teaching certification in the fall. We are proud of him for coming back to school full-time and earning honors last semester while balancing full time work.

Paige Servi

Paige is an outstanding student. In her writing, she is able to connect abstract concepts with real world examples. For example, in one paper, she presented Hitler as a moral entrepreneur who used propaganda to promote the idea that the Jewish community was evil. People today have difficulty understanding how the person who is now considered the essence of evil was considered a moral leader in Nazi Germany. In another paper, she explained the role of agents of socialization in children's understanding of death by describing her own experiences as a child reacting to the 9-11 disaster. In a third paper, Paige analyzed the unintended consequences of the drug war on low income neighborhoods; the result was widespread anomie and social disorder. These are just three of the many papers Paige wrote during her time at UW-Parkside. They demonstrate a high level of academic achievement.

Ismael Sifuentes

Ismael has been an outstanding student in our department and received praise from many faculty members regarding his work ethic, attendance, timely assignments, and willingness to reach out for help when needed. His research regarding parental multilingualism and its effects on children is impressive. As a Mexican immigrant, he is the first person in his family to attend college and faced many challenges. While working a half-time job to pay for school and participating as a university athlete, he achieved a GPA of 3.79. Ismael is a highly motivated student with strong intellectual promise.





Awards & Ceremonies Committee

We gratefully acknowledge the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Awards and Ceremonies Committee, which selected and approved the recipients in partnership with the colleges and departments. Thank you for your leadership in celebrating student success.

Lori Allen

Melissa Gregg

Abey Kuruvilla

Tammy McGuckin

Dana Oswald

William Parker

Robert Sasso

John Standard

UNIVERSITY OF
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