

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Park Scholarships



Annual Report 2021-2022

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NC State

Our world needs big, bold ideas and deeds to match. At NC State, we think beyond boundaries to do the extraordinary. We are North Carolina's preeminent research institution, with nationally renowned programs in engineering, veterinary medicine, textiles, statistics, design, linguistics, agriculture, business, and more.

Our more than 37,000 undergraduate and graduate students learn by doing. They conduct cutting-edge research, launch new companies, and perform acts of world-changing service. Experiential learning ensures they leave here ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.

More than 130 years after its creation, NC State continues to produce career-ready graduates and distinguished faculty whose world-class scholarship and research make a difference in the lives of everyday people across the state, throughout the nation, and around the world.

“

Park Scholarships will forever be an integral part of my life.

— *Shevani Mehta '22*

PARK SCHOLARSHIPS

The Park Scholarships program brings exceptional students to NC State based on their accomplishments and potential in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Park Scholars receive a four-year full-tuition scholarship, a computer stipend, and specialized faculty mentoring. They take part in an extensive series of enrichment programming that prepares them to make lifelong contributions to the university, state, nation, and world.

Over the past 26 years, the Park Scholarships program has brought more than 1,200 talented students to learn at NC State. Our thriving network of over 1,000 alumni is addressing challenges around the world, a testament to the legacy of NC State alumnus Roy H. Park '31.

Park Scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding entering freshmen for study in any discipline, with two-thirds designated for North Carolina residents.

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From the Director



We celebrated an impressive array of achievements this year, but the most important of all was coming back together. After a year of remote learning, it was deeply refreshing to return to in-person programming.

This spring, the Park Scholars celebrated the 25th anniversary of Service Raleigh by coordinating 80 service projects and more than 700 volunteers. The Krispy Kreme Challenge fulfilled its \$2 million commitment to the UNC Children's hospital. Over 85,000 patients have been treated at the NC State Park Scholars Children's Specialty Clinic since it opened in 2019.

Another major milestone for our program is that, with the graduation of the Class of 2022, the Park alumni community now numbers more than 1,000. That's over 1,000 dedicated alumni making a difference in communities around the world!

The program would not be what it is today without the tremendous support we receive from the Park Scholarships community. This year, 428 Selection Committee members helped us identify the 27th class of Park Scholars from an impressive field of 2,260 candidates. The generosity of the 1,168 donors to the Park Scholarships Sustaining Endowment allowed us to expand that class by one scholar. A pair of Park parents created the 10th co-named Park Scholarship, which, once fulfilled, will fund one Park Scholarship at NC State

in perpetuity. Hundreds of donors came together on NC State Day of Giving to raise money for scholarships and enrichment programming.

I am exceptionally proud of the talented team of staff and faculty who support the Park Scholars, and I am deeply appreciative of all who continue to help us enhance and refine our program. I look forward to seeing the ever-growing impact as Park Scholars lead and serve communities near and far.



Eva Feucht

Eva Feucht '02

Scholarship

Park Scholars are intellectually curious students who seek learning experiences beyond the classroom.



RESEARCH

Park Scholars engage with real, meaningful research to find solutions to society's most pressing problems. This is a sampling of some of the projects Park Scholars have worked on this year.

Pratik Bairoliya '25 examined data of students in computer science classes, modeling changes between online and in-person office hour attendance and analyzing the effects of distance-based education and in-person education. This will help future teachers understand how to model their classes and what improvements to make to their distance-based course syllabi.

Emi Boldor '25 tracked and analyzed transportation data through projects that work with airport traffic and railway safety.

Megan Cislo '23 continued her research in the Cheng BioTherapeutics Lab studying the effect of lung spheroid cells and their derivatives on the regeneration of pulmonary tissue in lung disease. This past year, she examined the effects of LSC exosomes and their potential to serve as an inhalable patient-derived therapeutic for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Shannon Dolan '22 worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop an R script that assesses the impact of a reduction in trawling effort on the fish biomass estimates from an acoustic trawl survey.



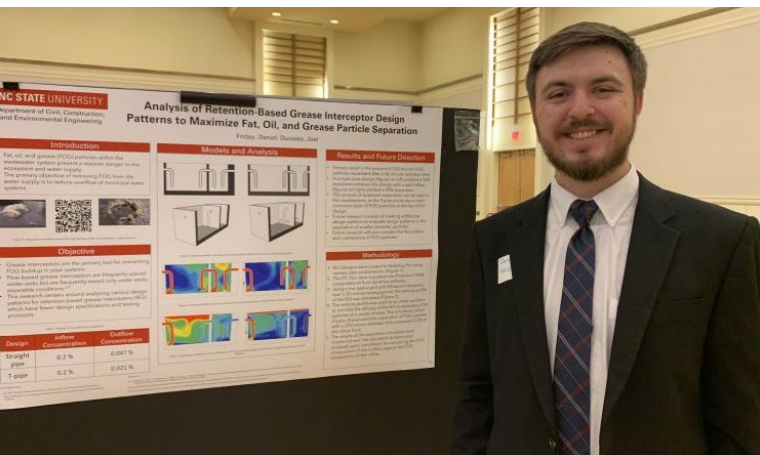
For almost two years, **Daniel Friday '23** has researched fat, oil, and grease particle separation within retention-based grease interceptors. This research entails creating 3D models of the grease interceptors and importing them into Phoenics computational fluid dynamics software for analysis. He has used this software to create velocity and particle separation profiles using a distribution of particle sizes for different designs. The profiles allow for easy comparison of grease interceptor designs and identification of patterns that yield optimal fat, oil, and grease separation.

Kavin Govindarajan '24 designed persistent planning algorithms for renewably powered autonomous vehicles for data collection in the Gulf Stream off the coast of North Carolina. He also designed and built autonomous sailboats for scientific data collection in marine environments.

Daniel Haller '22 engineered a probiotic yeast to produce and secrete beneficial nutrients, and he established a set of genetic tools to facilitate future engineering of this yeast.

Addison Hughes '24 worked on the College of Education's VEAR-MI project by reviewing fourth- through eighth-grade math lessons and scoring them for their teaching practices according to a "Standards Based Mathematics Teaching Practices" rubric. The goal was to review whether teachers are using successful teaching practices in their math lessons.

Tobias Hullette '25 worked as a CAD and fabrication engineer for the MantaRay project, building underwater hydrokinetic energy-harvesting systems.



Marina Kapitanov '24 engaged in biomedical engineering research at NC State's Orthopaedic Mechanobiology Lab, with the help of an Office of Undergraduate Research grant and a stipend from the Women and Minority Summer Research Program. She used and edited a custom program to develop the beginning stages of two 3D finite element models of brachial plexus birth injury in a rat model: one with original total bone complexity, and one that replaced trabecular regions with a homogeneous filler. With the help of a Park Enrichment Grant, she participated in an international research internship at the Bulgarian National Academy of Science under the Transmembrane Signaling Laboratory. Her research included using tumor cell lines to synthesize new multichromophore chemosensory systems for cell marking and diagnostics in medicine and investigating the relationship between phospholipid and Akt pathways in an in vivo Alzheimer's model.

Emmalee Kiser '24 worked with Cincinnati Children's Hospital in the Department of Human Genetics to create an in situ probe. She also cultured and CRISPRed cell lines.

Robert Kobrin '24 worked on a novel chitosan-glycerol hydrogel for the delivery of immunotherapeutics via intratumoral injection. Tumors present a difficult pressure gradient that leads to low-viscosity solutions exiting quickly via the injection track of the needle. The hydrogel demonstrates improved retention and biocompatibility, serving as a delivery platform for immunotherapeutics for tumors.

For her research in the Keung Lab, **Amy Leister '25** used optogenetics to study transcription factor regulation. She used fluorescent light exposure to synthetically induce the localization of transcription factor p65 through mutations of the transcription factor. She then compared the corresponding gene expression depending on the differing mutations of the transcription factor.

In her independent research, **Katelyn McInerney '23** continued to study the genetic underpinnings of hybrid male sterility — an important speciation mechanism — in house mice using statistics techniques. This research earned her one of NC State's four nominations for a Goldwater Scholarship, and she is drafting a manuscript on her work to be submitted for publication in the coming months. Additionally, She presented her research on factors influencing graduate student success at the NC State Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Shannon Pinnell '22 created wearable biosensors to track changes in hemoglobin in areas lacking medical infrastructure. She also developed new methods of deploying over-the-horizon radar.

Alexander Scott '25 worked in Dr. Bob Rose's biochemistry lab researching conditions and variables that contribute to successfully crystallizing proteins.

Paige Seibert '24 developed a one-step thermophilic bioprocess for the simultaneous enzymatic hydrolysis and fermentation of cotton residues that produces valuable bioproducts of lactic acid and microbial protein. This work was performed through the Biocarbon Utilization and Sequestration Lab in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at NC State.

Madeline Smith '25 worked in an ASSIST Center laboratory to create a wearable blood-oxygen detector that uses near-infrared spectroscopy and the modified Beer-Lambert law to improve patient experience during anemia diagnosis.

Autumn Sylvestri '23 is a participant in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering Research and Educational Enhancement Project. She is investigating the degradation and conversion of lignin, a component of plant biomass usually burned as waste, into high-value end products such as vanillin, a phenolic with commercial value. Because lignin is a significant component of plant biomass, optimizing its conversion into high-value end products is critical for the continued valorization of lignocellulosic biomass.

Trenton Wallis '22 developed a golf swing analyzer to give real-time professional feedback to improve a golfer's swing. The golf sensor tracks the swing in 3D space and offers tips based on swing speed, back/down swing rotation, and club face.

Ben Zino '22 compared snake observation data from traditional field surveys with citizen science snake observations to detect potential biases in the citizen science data. He assessed what can be done to account for these biases when making conservation decisions.

NATIONAL AWARDS AND CAMPUS HONORS



Elizabeth Beyer '22

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Spain

As a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Elizabeth will spend a year in a classroom in Spain facilitating English teaching. The one-year fellowship is designed to foster intercultural understanding and communication through an immersive cultural experience. In addition to teaching, Elizabeth will serve as an ambassador for the United States, sharing her culture and forming relationships with residents of Spain.



Daniel Haller '22

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Daniel will use this fellowship, which supports outstanding graduate students in STEM disciplines pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at U.S. institutions, to pursue a Ph.D. in systems, synthetic, and physical biology at Rice University. This fellowship provides three years of financial support, including an annual stipend of \$34,000 and a cost-of-education allowance of \$12,000.



Joshua Mason '24

Critical Language Scholarship — Chinese

Through the Critical Language Scholarship program, an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program, Joshua will spend eight to 10 weeks abroad studying Chinese and participating in structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains and cultural fluency while building relationships between people of the United States and other countries.



Noah Wolfe '22

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

With support from this fellowship, which supports outstanding graduate students in STEM disciplines pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at U.S. institutions, Noah will pursue a Ph.D. in gravitational wave astrophysics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This fellowship provides three years of financial support, including an annual stipend of \$34,000 and a cost-of-education allowance of \$12,000.

Phi Beta Kappa

The country's oldest society for the recognition of academic excellence and achievement. To be inducted, juniors must have a 4.0 GPA, and seniors must have a 3.85 GPA.

Megan Cislo '23
Annalise Hafner '22
Shevani Mehta '22
Srikar Nanduri '23
Beth Rodgers '22
Ethan Scheper '22
Thomas Steckmann '22
Beckett Stillman '23
Noah Wolfe '22
Ben Zino '22

Phi Kappa Phi

National honor society that recognizes and promotes academic excellence. Juniors must be in the top 7.5% of their class, and seniors must be in the top 10%.

Grace Baucom '22
Shannon Dolan '22

Goldwater Scholarship

Katelyn McInerney '23 - nominee
Abigail Wucherer '23 - nominee

PARK ENRICHMENT GRANTS

Park Enrichment Grants provide financial support for professional and personal enrichment experiences designed to foster the development of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These grants are funded by the Park Foundation and other donor gifts. Grants are awarded by a committee of faculty members and a Park Alumni Society representative. The following grants were awarded between Nov. 1, 2021, and May 25, 2022.

Artistic/Creative

Rose Amburose '25

Learning Culture Through Food: Exploring the Diverse Cuisines of India, China, and Korea via Cooking, Cultural Research, and Photography

Ramki Annachi '24

Continuation of Flight Lessons for Private Pilot Certificate

Ramki Annachi '24 and Kavin

Govindarajan '24

Building Dual-Use Hardware Simulator for Auto and Flight Training

Ethan Baker '25

Linux Server Project

Kennedy Fipps '24

Italian Cooking Class in Florence, Italy

Shreya Holikatti '25

Expedition to Ladakh, India

Jeanine Ikehua '24

Cultural Intelligence: Thinking Out Loud Podcast Production

Zack Jenio '22

Queer Liberation Through the Art of Drag

Zack Jenio '22

Social Media for Social Change: Becoming an Influencer

Natalie Kraft '22

Engineering a Catamaran: A Deep Dive Into the Design Process

Darlene Salvador '25 and Madeline

Smith '25

Sustainable Urban Gardening

Ben Zino '22

The Eastern Box Turtle: A Disappearing Backyard Treasure (documentary film)

Mini-Symposia

Natalie Kraft '22

TEDxNCState Sustainability and Community Engagement

Conference

Bill Lamm '24

International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Annual Expo

Thomas Steckmann '22

Presenting Research on Quantum Computing at the American Physical Society Conference

Internship

Sami Atassi '24

Clinic Assistant Internship at Urban Ministries

Becca Chemmanam '24

Ernst and Young Internship in New York, New York

Katherine Cherry '24

Phosphate Coating of Pyrite Surfaces

Marina Kapitanov '24

Biomedical Engineering Internship in Sofia, Bulgaria

Camilla Keil '23

Publications Internship at the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Karlyn Matheson '24

International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant Shadowing

Beijul Shah '24

Tekion Product Management Internship

Daryn Wilkerson '23

Sareh Nouri Internship

Research/Scholarly

Loujain Al Samara '22

Intraoral Radiography Certification Program

Rose Amburose '25

Independent Study in Philosophy: Focusing on Metaethics and the Grounds of Political Morality

Pratik Bairoliya '25

Research Super Computer Grant

Ria Bakshi '25

Emergency Medical Technician Certification

Amaya Beard '25

Doctors in Italy Fellowship Program

Emi Boldor '25

Academic and Cultural Enrichment — San Diego and San Francisco

Emi Boldor '25

Global Perspectives Certificate Capstone Project: A Study of Color and Culture

Emi Boldor '25

Infrastructure of Qatar: Impact of the World Cup

Shannon Carney '23

University Honors and Scholars Programs Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Megan Cislo '23

University Honors and Scholars Programs Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Megan Cislo '23

Using miR-30a-3p as an LSC-Exosome Supplement to Promote Tissue Regeneration in Rodent Models of Pulmonary Fibrosis

Christiana Daniel '23

Political and Cultural European Exploration



Sam Dotson '24

Barcelona, Spain Exploration

Sam Dotson '24

Cultural Immersion Trip to Dominican Republic

Sam Dotson '24

Italian Cuisine: Food of Italy Cooking Class

Sam Dotson '24

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Kennedy Fipps '24

Birth Doula Training in Washington, D.C.

Charlotte Fullbright '25

Doctors in Italy Fellowship Program

Meredith Gaskill '24

Accessing and Learning Adobe Photoshop for Career Goals

Anna Gessner '23

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Elliott Gyll '24

Maintaining Conversational Russian, German, and Serbo-Croatian

Elliott Gyll '24

Research in the South Pacific: Tahitian Language and Marquesas Island Linguistics

David Horne '23

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Jeanine Ikehua '24

WUNC Summer Internship

Zack Jenio '22

Final Osteoarthritis Data Collection and Undergraduate Training Opportunity

Zack Jenio '22

National Board of Health and Wellness Coaching Exam and Certification

Freddy Kelley '25

The Effects of Stress and Allostatic Load on Immunogenic Responses in College Students

Robert Kobrin '24

Study and Immersion in Puerto Rican Culture in the United States

Robert Kobrin '24 and Joshua Mason '24

Scivir Civic Engagement Initiative Use Case Experiment Materials

Bill Lamm '24

Diverse Historical, Natural, and Cultural Education in Scotland

Bill Lamm '24

Global Mass Transit Studies in Industrial and Civil Engineering Infrastructure and Queuing Design

Bill Lamm '24

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Amy Leister '25

Lagerstätten and Fossil Site Visits

Nehemiah MacDonald '23

Academic, Professional, and Cultural Exploration in London, U.K.

Jenni Mangala '24

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Madison Mueller '23

Outdoor Rock Climbing

Sonia Pereira '25

Cultural Exploration Trip to Scotland: An Examination of the Scottish Creative Class at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Keya Pothireddy '23

Food Insecurity in Rome

Keya Pothireddy '23

Professional and Academic Exploration in London, U.K.

Timothy Reid '24

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Darlene Salvador '25

Cultural and Language Immersion in Spain

Kate Scheer '25

Week Abroad in France for Language and Cultural Education

Madeline Scott '25

Toxicology and Endocrine System Summer Research Project

Paige Seibert '24

Cultural Immersion Trip to Dominican Republic

Madeline Smith '25

Cultural and Language Immersion in Spain

Zach VanHekken '23

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Annie Kate Watson '23

University Honors and Scholars Programs
Spring Break Trip to Paris, France

Bryan Wilson '24

Artificial Intelligence — Based Defense for Cyberattacks

Service**Loujain Al Samara '22**

Alternative Service Break Trip to Hoonah, Alaska

Ria Bakshi '25

Alternative Service Break Trip to Jonesville, Virginia

Emma Grace Barnes '24

Hands on Peru Summer Medical Mission

Amaya Beard '25

Alternative Service Break Trip to Jonesville, Virginia

Daniel Friday '23

Alternative Service Break Trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Elliott Gyll '24

Teacher Training and Swahili Language Classes in Rwanda

Elliott Gyll '24

Volunteer in Children's Nonprofit in Ha Giang, Vietnam and Backpacking in Southeast Asia

Elliott Gyll '24

Volunteer in Morocco: Reviving Berber Communities and Arabic Immersion

Abby Hodges '22

Alternative Service Break Trip to Hoonah, Alaska

Freddy Kelley '25

Alternative Service Break Trip to Jonesville, Virginia

Freddy Kelley '25

Equipment for Musical Service

Emie Kiser '24

Food Insecurity in Rural Idaho: School and Community Garden Development

Kate Scheer '25

Appalachia Service Project

Madeline Scott '25

Alternative Service Break Trip to Hoonah, Alaska

David Sieg '25

Alternative Service Break Trip to Hoonah, Alaska

Madeline Smith '25

Alternative Service Break Trip to West Jefferson, North Carolina

Rylee Wienhold '25

Saint Bernard Project Puerto Rico



Study Abroad

Hannah Braun '23

Summer Semester in Valencia, Spain

Sahib Chandi '24

Summer Semester in Valencia, Spain

Megan Cislo '23

Summer Semester in Valencia, Spain

Katelyn Coleman '25

Summer Semester in London, U.K.

Sam Dotson '24

Summer Semester in Florence, Italy

Kennedy Fipps '24

Spring Break Study Abroad in Prague, Czech Republic

Kennedy Fipps '24

Summer Semester in Florence, Italy

Meredith Gaskill '24

Spring Semester at Lorenzo De Medici

Anna Gessner '23

Summer Study Abroad in Reutlingen, Germany

Elliott Gyll '24

Spring Study Abroad in Seoul, South Korea

Shreya Holikatti '25

Summer Semester in Prague, Czech Republic

Anagha Jandhyala '24

Summer Semester in Seville, Spain

Alexa Jimenez Escribano '24

Summer Study Abroad in Havana, Cuba

Alexa Jimenez Escribano '24

Summer Study Abroad in Valencia, Spain

Marina Kapitanov '24

Spring Semester at Heidelberg University

Camilla Keil '23

Fall Semester in Paris, France

Katie Krawcheck '24

Summer Semester in Amman, Jordan

Bill Lamm '24

Summer Semester in London, U.K.

Amy Leister '25

Spring Break Study Abroad in Prague, Czech Republic

Aisha Mahmood '24

Summer Semester in Amman, Jordan

Jenni Mangala '24

Summer Semester in Kigali, Rwanda

Jenni Mangala '24

Winter Break in Kathmandu, Nepal

Madison Mueller '24

Fall Semester in Cork, Ireland

Nick Oyarzun '24

Fall Semester in Melbourne, Australia

Rhylee Pope '25

Summer Study Abroad in Seville, Spain



Leadership

**Park Scholars listen well,
lead by example, take risks,
and champion original ideas.**



LEARNING LAB I

The Park Scholars in the Class of 2025 explored leadership in North Carolina's foster care system during Learning Lab I.

Learning Lab I is a weekend of critical thinking, reflection, and motivation for change. It is an annual experience designed and implemented by first-year Park Scholars to provide insight into leadership through the lens of a challenge currently facing the people of North Carolina. On March 25 and 26, 2022, the Park Scholarships Class of 2025 examined how leaders in various parts of the foster care system work together to address complex child welfare challenges facing communities across the state. Speakers from different sectors helped to illustrate the intersectionality of issues and the uniqueness of each child's experience within the system.

"In the beginning, I wasn't sure what to expect for organizing and carrying out Learning Lab I," explained Katie Dukelow '25, co-chair of the Learning Lab I Committee. "Though I was anxious about serving as a co-chair, it was incredible to witness and help with the success of developing, planning, and finalizing such an enriching experience, and I have come to understand that this issue should be highly advocated."

In the days leading up to the program, students heard from Suzie Goodell, Class of 2024 Park Faculty Scholar and foster parent, and Adachi Amaram '25, a fellow Park Scholar in their class. Questions from the class drove a productive discussion that laid a foundation for the weekend to come.

The first day of the experience took place in Charlotte, North Carolina, where students heard from a range of speakers that included the leaders of two foster care nonprofits as well as a legal panel complete with a judge, two attorneys, and two social workers who work on behalf of the Department of Social Services. Diverse perspectives gave Park Scholars the opportunity to think critically about the complex problems facing the system, while discussion time allowed students to reflect on where the burden of responsibility should fall.



As a result of this experience, I will be seeking out opportunities to support children aging out of foster care, and possibly pursuing a guardian ad litem role in the future.

— Brooke Eby '25

The second day of Learning Lab I took place in Raleigh and featured additional personal perspectives from a foster parent and former foster youth, as well as an interactive panel with leaders from various nonprofit organizations serving those in the foster care system. Small-group discussions implored students to consider how applying their specific majors could benefit the foster care system, especially for majors beyond the scope of the social sciences.

Despite some concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic interfering with the students' abilities to meet with speakers and travel to Charlotte, the event was a success by all measures. "Learning Lab I was an invaluable experience," said Ethan Baker '25.

Learning Lab I Speakers

Adachi Amaram '25, Park Scholar

Laura Bodenheimer, Guardian ad Litem

Sloan Crawford, Co-founder/Board President of Foster Village Charlotte

Sheila Donaldson, Assistant Division Director for the Wake County Department of Human Services/Division of Child Welfare

Dana Frady, Guardian ad Litem District Administrator, 26th Judicial District

Dr. Regina Gavin-Williams, Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University

Dr. Suzie Goodell, Class of 2024 Park Faculty Scholar

Katie Hall, Attorney

Jason Hicks, Assistant County Attorney, Davidson County

Judge Carlos Jané, District Court Judge

Selina Johnson, Executive Director, Least of These Carolina

Jessica Jones, Clinical Assessor/Placement Specialist at Youth Villages

Dr. Robert Martinez, Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Meredith Nicholson, Attorney at Law at NicholsonPham, PLLC

Dr. Kate Norwalk, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, NC State University

Gaile Osborne, Executive Director, Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina

Becky Santoro, Co-founder/Director of Programs and Development of Foster Village Charlotte

Chantel Sherman, Director of Transition Programs at Hope Center at Pullen

Sheri Woodyard, Assistant County Attorney, Davidson County

Michelle Zechmann, CEO of Haven House Services



The speakers each offered different perspectives based on their personal roles. From lawyers to social workers to community volunteers, each speaker was able to reflect on the foster care system as well as the leadership that they all exhibit in their endeavors.

— Brooke Eby '25

Class of 2025 Learning Lab I Committee

Katie Dukelow '25, Co-chair

Rylee Wienhold '25, Co-chair

Pratik Bairoliya '25

Shay Barker '25

Shane Conroy '25

Madeline Scott '25

Helen Watson '25



LEARNING LAB II

Together, the Classes of 2023 and 2024 explored leadership in K-12 education equity and access during Learning Lab II.

While a traditional Learning Lab II for Park Scholars occurs in Washington, D.C., with only their class, it's safe to say that this year was not traditional. On Oct. 3-5, 2021, the Classes of 2023 and 2024 had the unique experience of going through their Learning Lab together, which had never been done before. While much of the Raleigh-based experience focused on learning how leaders operate in the K-12 education sector, they also had the opportunity to create new interclass relationships, bringing them closer together as a Park community.

They met with many local, state, and national leaders who showed a tremendous enthusiasm for what they do. Among them, Bryan Proffitt, the vice president of the North Carolina Educators Association, demonstrated true passion and vulnerability. He talked about his advocacy work for increasing teacher pay and what it takes to rally a team of educators to march and make a statement. Passion comes in many forms, and it has the potential to influence every person.

The principal panel taught scholars how leaders are responsible for empowering the people they lead so they can become leaders themselves. Mariah Walker, principal of Hilburn Academy, shared a story about encouraging one of her teachers who is passionate about environmental and conservation issues to bring students in to make a change at her school. Everyone can bring people into their missions, but leaders excel when they allow the individuals following them to lead things they are passionate about.

Although this trip was about education, scholars learned that many issues in today's society intersect. Congressman G.K. Butterfield shared this efficient summary: "When you hear the word 'poverty,' do something about it." He said this because he believes there is a direct correlation between poverty and access to education.

Thanks to this Park Scholarships experience, the scholars met with some of the best leaders around the country.

Learning Lab II Committee

Kevin Cabral '23, Co-chair
Zachary VanHekken '23, Co-chair
Rachel Beall '23
Shriya Bhoothapuri '23
Ariana Frazier '23
Nehemiah MacDonald '23
William McPhaul '23
Cortney Ollis '23

Akshaya Ganesan '24, Co-chair
Jenni Mangala '24, Co-chair
Ramki Annachi '24
Elliott Gyll '24
Emma Holincheck '24
Katie Krawcheck '24
Bill Lamm '24
Joshua Mason '24
Joseph Staudt '24



Education is the responsibility of all of us.

— Jim Martin

a member of the Wake County Board of Education and Park Faculty Scholar for the Class of 2014



As a future educator, I had the great experience to dive deeper into what being an educator truly means to me.

— Zach VanHekken '23



Speakers

Margaret Borden '15, Graduate Research Assistant, William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation

Anna-Claire Bousquet '18, Library Media Coordinator, East Cary Magnet Middle

Philip Boyne '09, physics teacher, St. David's School

Sen. Richard Burr, U.S. Senator for North Carolina

Carol Burris, Executive Director, Network for Public Education

Rep. G.K. Butterfield, U.S. Representative, North Carolina's 1st Congressional District

Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, North Carolina State Senator, District 15

Francisco Durán, Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools

Mandy Gill, Upper Campus Principal, GRACE Christian School

Bob Grant, Principal, Washington Magnet Elementary School

Nation Hahn, Director of Growth, EducationNC

Bryan Hassel, Co-president, Public Impact

Keung Hui, K-12 Education Reporter, *News & Observer*

Kathryn Hutchinson, Principal, Centennial Campus Magnet Middle School

David Lewis, Superintendent, Wayne County Public Schools

Julianne Donoghue MacBain '14, Math Teacher, GRACE Christian School

Michael Maher, Executive Director, Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Steve Mares, Principal, Athens Drive Magnet High School

Jim Martin, Wake County Board of Education member

Cathy Moore, Superintendent, Wake County Public School System

Joe Nathan, Director, Center for School Change

Robert Pondiscio, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Bryan Proffitt, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Educators

Jeffrey C. Riley, Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

B. Charvez Russell, Executive Director, Friendship Academy of the Arts

Charles Siler, Consultant and Lobbyist, Save Our Schools Arizona

Rep. Kandie Smith, North Carolina State Representative, District 8

Hiller Spires, Executive Director and Associate Dean, William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation

Catherine Truitt, North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Elisa Villaneuva Beard, CEO, Teach for America

Mariah Walker, Principal, Hilburn Academy

Rachel Walter '18, Science Curriculum Designer, IXL Learning

William T. Wright Jr., Superintendent, Hertford County Public Schools





LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Leadership Academy is a comprehensive four-year program designed to develop Park Scholars' leadership potential. The academy addresses a variety of topics relevant to leadership, ranging from self-awareness and implicit bias to public speaking and collaboration when experiencing conflict. Leadership Academy explores theories and methods from a practical standpoint, helping Park Scholars gain a deeper understanding of their own leadership style and benefit from that insight immediately.

Every year, Park Scholarships staff collaborate with NC State colleagues and Park Scholars to adjust and improve Leadership Academy. Beginning with the Park Scholarships Class of 2024, scholars will complete the Leadership Development Program Leadership Certificate offered by NC State's Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.

The Leadership Certificate is earned by participating in the program's 10 foundational workshops, engaging in a mentor relationship with a Park Faculty Scholar, taking part in a leadership experience, and submitting a reflection paper. The 10 workshops are held over one semester and have the advantage of connecting Park Scholars across classes and with many other leaders across campus. To facilitate the curriculum change, the Park Scholarships program is phasing out parallel Leadership Academy content that is covered by the certificate. Learn more about this change at park.ncsu.edu/leadership-certificate.

Year 1

- Counseling for Support and Success
- Email Extinguisher
- National Coalition Building Institute Session
- Racial Equity Institute Groundwater Workshop and Discussion

Year 2

- Unconscious Bias
- Task Mastery
- Public Speaking
- Building Your Fan Base

Year 3

- Concepts and Models; Leadership Coaches
- Campus Conversations 1 and 2
- Taking Risks and Failing Well
- Leadership Interview
- Motivating Others

Year 4

- Ethics and Values
- Leadership and Diversity



Interacting with people from various backgrounds, life stages, and affiliations with the university was great for opening my mind to other leadership styles and perspectives. This program certainly made me more confident as a leader. I now understand my communication style, leadership style, and professional and personal values.

— Kelly Koehler '23
completed the Leadership Certificate in spring 2021



GERALD H. ELKAN DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

On March 30, the Class of 2023 hosted the program's fourth Gerald H. Elkan Distinguished Lecture in Science and Society. Nalini Nadkarni, an innovative ecologist and activist committed to increasing scientific literacy among incarcerated populations, gave a lecture titled "Tapestry Thinking: Weaving Diverse Communities To Understand and Protect Nature."

Nadkarni's career studying trees has sparked her passion for educating others about the importance of nature. Her publications focus on canopy and ecology, science in correctional facilities, and science and religion. Nadkarni is the co-creator of the Sustainability in Prisons Program in Washington state and creator of the Initiative to bring Science Programs to the Incarcerated (INSPIRE).

The Gerald H. Elkan Distinguished Lecture on Science and Society was established by its namesake's former students, associates, and friends in honor of Elkan's 40-year career as a microbiology professor in NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

WATCH THIS EVENT AT

park.ncsu.edu/nalini-nadkarni

Elkan Lecture Advisory Committee

Gerald Elkan

Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, NC State University

Amy Grunden

Professor, Microbiology, NC State University

Jim Ligon

Consultant, Ligon Biotechnology Consulting Services

TJ Schneeweis

Retired Microbiology Laboratory Supervisor, NC State University

Mark Stowers

Chief Operations Officer and President, Inari Agriculture

Mark Voelker '02

OpenStack Architect, VMware

Elkan Lecture Planning Committee

Cailin Harrington '23, Chair

Daniel Hutchinson-Kausch '23

Sarah Jarrell '23

Nicolas Muecke '23

Ritika Shamdasani '23

Ethan Shumate '23

Beckett Stillman '23

Annie Kate Watson '23



Save the Date

The next Gerald H. Elkan Distinguished Lecture in Science and Society will take place on Nov. 7, 2022, and will feature Dorothy Roberts, an acclaimed scholar of race, gender, and the law.

Service

Park Scholars dedicate themselves to making a positive difference in their communities.





SERVICE RALEIGH

In its 25th anniversary year, Service Raleigh returned to an entirely in-person format, bringing together 708 volunteers for a day of service at 80 sites throughout the Triangle.

Service Raleigh is an annual citywide day of service led jointly by five Park Scholar and Goodnight Scholar co-chairs. The NC State tradition began 25 years ago as a collaboration between Park Scholars in the Class of 2000 and members of student government. Each year, Service Raleigh leads to the completion of thousands of hours of community service that benefit people and organizations throughout the Triangle.

This year's event took place on April 9. Organizers expressed great enthusiasm for returning to the original event format with a kickoff ceremony in Talley Student Union and all in-person service sites. The event started with an inspiring message on the power of community from this year's featured speaker, Mariah Walker, principal of Hilburn Academy.

While the event is firmly rooted at NC State, it brings together volunteers from all over the Triangle. Groups of friends, families, co-workers, religious organizations, professional networks, and social clubs, all interested in supporting the community, dedicated hours of their day to bettering their communities through activities that included caring for animals at rescue centers, cleaning up streams, tending community gardens, painting playground equipment, and more.

During this milestone year, the impact of Service Raleigh stretched beyond the Triangle. A group of NC State alumni in Washington, D.C., were inspired to organize a satellite event and coordinate a day of service in Rock Creek Park.

In just a few hours on a Saturday morning, the work of 708 volunteers produced dramatic results to benefit the Triangle. This impact would not be possible without the leadership of the 40 students serving on the Service Raleigh planning committee and 55 site leaders who fanned out around the community to lead each team of volunteers.

Service Raleigh will return on April 1, 2023. The deadlines to register as a site leader, a volunteer, or a partner site that hosts volunteers typically fall in March. Visit serviceraleigh.org for more information.

“

Having all service opportunities back in person was a really important part of this year's Service Raleigh event. I think that many students are still trying to find ways to get more connected to campus and the larger Raleigh community post-pandemic, and the in-person service projects are a great way to make friends and find new places to regularly volunteer.

— Sarah Hartsell '22

Park Scholar co-chair of
Service Raleigh 2022

“

Being able to share our service and passions in person with the volunteers was very rewarding. It's great to see people from all ages, as well as students from NC State, come together to make such an amazing impact!

— Shaily Shah '22

Park Scholar co-chair of
Service Raleigh 2022

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Civic Engagement Initiatives (CEIs) introduce Park Scholars to community needs and how organizations address those needs to create beneficial change. Park Scholars build skills by working in small groups to implement solutions to community challenges. Students also participate in reflection sessions led by junior and senior Park Scholar facilitators.

The Park Scholarships Service Advisory Committee received 32 CEI project proposals for 2021-2022 from community sponsors and Park Scholars. A virtual fair in August launched the CEIs and gave students a chance to meet project sponsors. Scholars completed their CEIs this spring.

AI-Anon

Katherine Cherry '24 and Maddy Hannan '24 created an AI-Anon support group on campus for family and friends of alcoholics that facilitates positive change through sharing experiences and applying AI-Anon principles.

The Blood Connection

Sami Anthony '24 and Emie Kiser '24 worked with the Blood Connection to facilitate blood drives and generate interest for a student organization on campus to promote the importance of donating.

BWEL Foundation

Reagan Bustabad '24 and Karlyn Matheson '24 created a social media account and a future advertising plan for the BWEL Housing Options for Students Today (HOST) Program, an initiative to end college student homelessness.

Feed the Pack

Sami Atassi '24 and Nick Oyarzun '24 worked with NC State's Feed the Pack food pantry to address food insecurity and produce high-quality cooking demonstration videos using the ingredients available at the pantry.

Global Scholars Academy

Meera Butalia '24, Sahib Chandi '24, and Bryan Wilson '24 collaborated with faculty leadership at the Global Scholars Academy to help design their MakerSpace and develop lesson plans to activate the space to provide an outlet for STEAM-related, project-based learning.

InterAct of Wake County

In partnership with InterAct of Wake County, **Addison Hughes '24 and Aisha Mahmood '24** tackled a number of projects to promote diversity and inclusivity within the programming curriculum for children in the shelter.

Park Scholar CEI Facilitators

Bella Condo '23
Shannon Dolan '22
Daniel Friday '23
Katelyn Glen '22
Annalise Hafner '22
Sarah Hartsell '22
Abby Hodges '22
Daniel Toole '22

Junior Achievement of Eastern North Carolina

Jeanine Ikekhua '24 and Paige Siebert '24 interviewed 12 constituents of Junior Achievement and taught five lessons on workforce readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship to a second-grade class at Oak Grove Elementary.

Krispy Kreme Challenge

Kavin Govindarajan '24 and Beijul Shah '24 worked with the Krispy Kreme Challenge data analytics team to develop predictive models that will be used to drive organizational decision-making and ultimately increase donations to UNC Children's Hospital.

Lux

Emma Grace Barnes '24 and Emma Holincheck '24 helped raise awareness and support survivors of sexual violence for Lux through creating social media content, revamping the organization's website, solidifying partnerships with local businesses and law clinics, and organizing pop-up events.

Musical Empowerment

Ryley Fallon '24 and Anagha Jandhyala '24 created content for Musical Empowerment's social media account, helped plan recitals to promote musical education for youth in the Triangle, and assisted with Strike a Chord week and other fundraising efforts.



NC State Social Innovation Fellows

Jenni Mangala '24 developed a portion of an impact report for All We Are, an organization that installs solar panels at schools and hospitals in rural Uganda.

NC State Wellness and Recreation

Sam Dodson '24 and Timothy Reid '24 created the In Wellness podcast and worked with the marketing department at NC State Wellness and Recreation to diversify their content and provide a resource of comfort to marginalized communities.

North Carolina Science Olympiad

Niasha Kodzai '24 and Dante Tomaino '23 were test writers for the Green Generation middle and high school Science Olympiad exams, and were graders during the regional and state competitions.

Redress Raleigh

Kevin Cabral '23 and Meredith Gaskill '24 completed an online interactive program that follows a textile through its entire life cycle to help Redress Raleigh continue their mission of educating the community on sustainability in fashion.

Scivir

Robert Kobrin '24 and Joshua Mason '24 worked to design and propose experiments to test different use cases for Scivir's air quality sensors.

Special Olympics North Carolina

Anna Hill '24 and Joe Staudt '24 initiated a four-week Special Olympics Young Athletes Instructional Program at the Tammy Lynn Center, followed by a field day where all of the athletes' parents and peers could see the skills they learned in the program.

TEDxNCState

Kennedy Fipps '24 and Bill Lamm '24 planned and executed the first TEDxAdventure, a field-trip-style community event in partnership with the Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women, to host a reentry simulation to enhance participants' understanding of the criminal justice system and compassion for the formerly incarcerated.

WakeUP Wake County

Akshaya Ganesan '24 and Sam Wallace '24 worked with WakeUP Wake County to better understand how nonprofits impact climate change, affordable housing, and public transportation in local government.

YMCA of the Triangle

Alexa Jimenez Escribano '24 and Kiran Soma '24 completed a diversity, equity, and inclusion analysis of the YMCA's Youth and Government program by hosting a focus group with student participants, sending out multiple surveys, studying social media and website content, and developing recommendations and considerations.

You Can Vote

Becca Chemmanam '24 and Katie Krawcheck '24 attended multiple trainings to learn about the voting process in Raleigh and in North Carolina, and they assisted with events to register students on campus to vote and educate people about where and when to vote.



KRISPY KREME CHALLENGE COMPLETES \$2 MILLION COMMITMENT



What began in 2004 as a dare between friends has transformed into the No. 1 NC State student tradition and an event that draws participants from all across the United States and around the world. Eighteen years later, our mission remains the same: to provide for the health care and well-being of children from all across North Carolina.

— Megan Cislo '23

The 18th annual Krispy Kreme Challenge was held virtually on Feb. 5, 2022, included more than 2,000 runners, and raised \$92,000, bringing the race's cumulative donation to \$2 million.

In 2015, Krispy Kreme Challenge race directors pledged to double the \$1 million raised by the race for UNC Children's Hospital and North Carolina children and families. Now with the support of countless runners, students, staff, and volunteers, Park Scholars are celebrating an achievement nearly two decades in the making: The Krispy Kreme Challenge has met its \$2 million commitment to UNC Children's Hospital.

UNC Children's Hospital opened the NC State Park Scholars Children's Specialty Clinic in 2019 to provide highly specialized pediatric care to North Carolina patients. "We are so grateful to the Park Scholars and to all those who participated in the Krispy Kreme Challenge," said Dr. Stephanie Davis, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UNC Children's Hospital. "Their generous support of UNC Children's and the NC State Park Scholars Children's Specialty Clinic in Raleigh has had a significant impact on the health of hundreds of children and families across North Carolina."

Through a global pandemic, the 18-year NC State tradition persisted. Though the race has taken place virtually for the past two years, Krispy Kreme Challenge organizers say the community has continued to support the challenge to meet the commitment to UNC Children's Hospital.

Over 85,000 patients have been treated at the NC State Park Scholars Children's Specialty Clinic since it opened in 2019. Named in honor of the Park Scholars who created the race in 2004, the clinic offers a wide range of medical care for children from across North Carolina. The Krispy Kreme Challenge remains UNC Children's Hospital's largest unrestricted donor.

Character

Park Scholars demonstrate the highest levels of integrity, honesty, and conscientiousness.



CLASS OF 2022 LEGACY PROJECT

Solve hunger. Build a lasting impact. Teach sustainability. Support families in need.

These themes underpinned the seniors' Class Legacy Project. The Class of 2022 raised \$3,600 and built two community gardens to serve under-resourced families. They spent the year fundraising for this project, which was developed in coordination with the Interfaith Food Shuttle.

The garden boxes were installed at two child care centers in Durham, North Carolina: Rochelle Sanders Family Child Care Home and Angie's Angels. Both facilities participate in the North Carolina Subsidized Childcare Program and seek to make child care accessible to low-income families. Built by the Park Scholars during Service Raleigh, the gardens will work to ensure fresh produce is available to these communities.





WILLIAM C. FRIDAY AWARD

On Oct. 15, the Class of 2022 presented the 23rd annual William C. Friday Award to Julius Tillery in recognition of his outstanding advocacy for North Carolina's agricultural and environmental sectors.

Tillery is a distinguished figure and leader in environmental, agricultural, and racial justice in North Carolina. As a fifth-generation cotton farmer and native of North Carolina's Roanoke Valley, Tillery founded BlackCotton in 2016 to honor his roots, promote Black-grown cotton, and uplift the Black community in Northampton County.

Tillery has dedicated his career to improving the lives of farmers and farming communities throughout North Carolina and across the United States. In addition to his role as an entrepreneur, Tillery serves as the North Carolina state coordinator for the Black Family Land Trust, a Southern SARE Administrative Council member, and a North Carolina Forestry Advisory Council member. Tillery is a 2008 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied economics and entrepreneurship.

The William C. Friday Award, named for the former president of the University of North Carolina System, is an honor presented annually by the senior class of Park Scholars on behalf of the entire Park Scholarships program. The award honors individuals who emulate Friday's dedication to scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The Class of 2022 met with Peter Hans, president of the UNC System, to discuss their nominees for the award.

WATCH THIS EVENT AT
park.ncsu.edu/julius-tillery



Julius Tillery is an exceptional leader who supports and empowers his local agricultural community and is a deserving recipient of the William C. Friday Award.

— Shannon Dolan '22

William C. Friday Award Committee

Shannon Dolan '22, Co-chair
Ethan Scheper '22, Co-chair
Natalie Bress '22
Megan D'Agostino '22
Daniel Haller '22

Save the Date

Save the date for the Class of 2023 William C. Friday Award presentation to Molly Barker on Oct. 27, 2022.



FRESHMAN AND SENIOR RETREATS

Park retreats at the start of the freshman and senior years afford scholars the perspective to reflect on how they have grown and prepare for the next part of their lives.

Freshman Retreat

The Class of 2025 Freshman Retreat was held Aug. 10-12. Park Scholars were welcomed to campus and Raleigh with an engaging series of programming that introduced them to sites around the city. The scholars became acquainted with one another, their Park Scholar facilitators, faculty, and staff. Park Faculty Scholars Trino Ascencio-Ibáñez and Kay Sandberg selected Brené Brown's *Dare To Lead* to guide discussions during the retreat and the students' yearlong seminar.

Class of 2025 Freshman Retreat Facilitators

Elizabeth Beyer '22	Zack Jenio '22
Andrew Daddone '22	Natalie Kraft '22
Liam Dao '22	Beth Rodgers '22
Sarah Hartsell '22	Shaily Shah '22
Annie Haunton '22	Zach VanHekken '23

Senior Retreat

The Class of 2022 participated in a local Senior Retreat Sept. 2-7. Members of the retreat planning committee led their peers through discussions and activities designed to address the past, present, and future. Seniors strengthened their bonds with one another and their Park Faculty Scholars, and they connected with alumni participants Ashley Lawson Avis '18, Jennifer Biggs '11, Daniel Cheek '05, Maggie DeWeese '18, Jasmine Frantz '13, Chasta Hamilton '07, Lauren Hill '08, Akshay Iyer '16, Janey Kuyath '13, Sonya Patel-Nguyen '09, Kimberly Richards '04, Kati Scruggs '18, Laurel Voelker '02, and Aiya Williams '03.

Class of 2022 Senior Retreat Facilitators

Shannon Dolan '22
 Annalise Hafner '22
 Daniel Haller '22
 Tatum Kellum '22
 Ethan Scheper '22



The Program Community

PARK SCHOLARS PROFILE



CLASS OF 2022

Park Scholars are intellectually curious students who think critically and seek learning experiences outside the classroom. They listen well, lead by example, take risks, and champion original ideas. Park Scholars dedicate themselves to making a positive difference in their communities while demonstrating integrity, honesty, and conscientiousness.

The Park Scholars in the Classes of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 come from three countries, 23 states, and 38 counties in North Carolina. Their academic interests run the gamut. Several Park Scholars finished their undergraduate degrees in less than four years and have applied a portion of their eight semesters of Park Scholarships funding to graduate studies at NC State.

Undergraduate Majors by College

Some Park Scholars have more than one major

- Agriculture and Life Sciences - 24**
- Design - 3**
- Education - 8**
- Engineering - 66**
- Humanities and Social Sciences - 41**
- Management - 13**
- Natural Resources - 5**
- Sciences - 48**
- Textiles - 4**
- University College - 1**

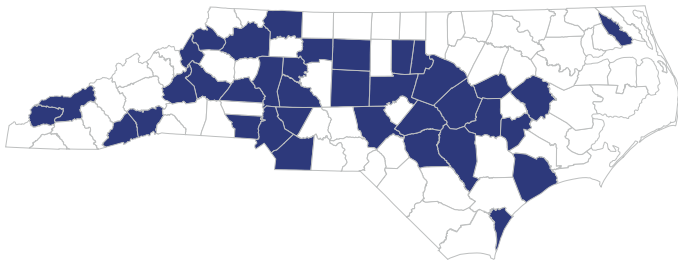


CLASS OF 2023

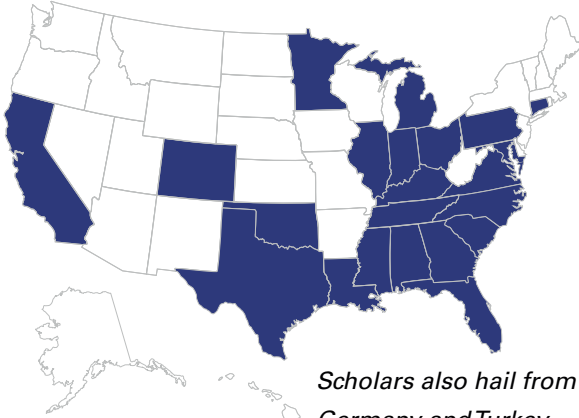


CLASS OF 2024

Scholars by North Carolina County



Scholars by U.S. State



Scholars also hail from Germany and Turkey.



CLASS OF 2025

CLASS OF 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout their time at NC State, the Class of 2022 embodied the program's pillars of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The talented Park Scholars of the Class of 2022 were selected from a field of nearly 2,120 applicants. Led by Park Faculty Scholars Lisa Parks and Steve Greene, the class discussed Robert Frank's *Success and Luck: Good Fortune and the Myth of Meritocracy* and formed lasting bonds when they met in Black Mountain, North Carolina, for Freshman Retreat in August 2018. During Learning Lab I, the scholars learned how state leaders were handling public safety and natural disaster preparedness. The next year, the class traveled to Washington, D.C., to analyze how national leaders were approaching mass incarceration reform. For many scholars, Learning Lab II played a critical role in informing their understanding of systemic racism in the U.S.

The scholars took part in Civic Engagement Initiatives that focused on topics including expanding the student-run business 321 Coffee, designing a website and marketing materials for Musical Empowerment, developing curricula for the Museum of Life and Science, creating a drip irrigation system for a school in rural Ethiopia, growing awareness about blood platelet donation, and more.

They hosted the Gerald H. Elkan Lecture in Science and Society in fall 2020 with featured speaker Thomas Hager, an award-winning science and technology author. In October, they honored Julius Tillery, a leader in environmental, agricultural, and racial justice in North Carolina, with the 23rd annual William C. Friday Award.

Service and scholarship have taken this class around the world. With support from Park Enrichment Grants, the 35 members of the Class of 2022 traveled to more than 16 countries across six continents on volunteer and educational trips. They learned about engineering renewable energy, gained clinical experience, studied art, created documentaries, designed watercraft, learned languages, volunteered for nonprofits around the world, and more.

On campus, scholars conducted award-winning research. They studied stream restoration, equine osteoarthritis, supernovas, infectious disease and gut microbiomes, microgravity and plants, quantum computing, and more.

They built Scivir, a low-cost air quality monitoring startup dedicated to accelerating environmental justice, co-founded the Global Health Cooperative to connect students and alumni pursuing careers in public health, brought TEDxNCState back to campus, and spearheaded campuswide initiatives to cut single-use plastics and create a greener future.

Through internship and co-op experiences, and with support from mentors, they discovered their true passions. This class includes many members of the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, two Goldwater Scholars, two Marian Drane Graham Scholars, an Astronaut Scholar, and a Doris Duke Conservation Scholar. Four members of the class completed their undergraduate studies early, and these scholars began professional and graduate studies in the humanities, veterinary medicine, and analytics.

Service underpinned the NC State experience for the Class of 2022 Park Scholars. They have led beloved campus traditions through the pandemic. They've taken part in three Service Raleigh events, leading thousands of volunteers in community projects throughout the Triangle. They've helped coordinate four Krispy Kreme Challenge events, which helped the event reach its goal of raising \$2 million for UNC Children's Hospital and its NC State Park Scholars Children's Specialty Care Program.

The scholars demonstrate selfless generosity. They are committed to paying forward the support they have received, and 100% of them have made a gift to the program. They helped Park Scholarships raise more than \$1.75 million during four NC State Day of Giving campaigns. They have taught others through mentorship initiatives, student teaching programs, and wildly popular YouTube channels.

All of this and more was accomplished in less than four years by this extraordinary class of scholars. We look forward to seeing the many innovative, thoughtful, and exciting things the Park Scholars in the Class of 2022 will do in the years to come.



CLASS OF 2022 BIOS



Loujain Al Samara

B.S. Biological Sciences, Concentration: Human Biology; B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies, Concentration: Scientific and Societal Dimensions of Nutritional and Public Health; Minor: Microbiology; Certificate: Essentials of Business Raleigh, North Carolina

Loujain was a four-year member of the Alternative Spring Break program and led service-learning trips to the Dominican Republic and Alaska. Throughout her time at NC State, she served as an undergraduate research assistant at the Patisaul Lab, chair of NC State's Sustainability Fund, and a Global Ambassador. After earning numerous honors, including the Chancellor's Study Abroad Scholarship, the Mansour Global Engagement Award, and the BioSci Professional Development Scholarship, Loujain has committed to one year of service as a patient care coordinator at North Carolina Endodontics before pursuing a doctor of dental surgery degree.



Grace Baucom

B.S. Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, Concentration: Community Food Systems; B.S. Extension Education, Minors: Environmental Education; Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management; Spanish Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Grace earned her North Carolina Environmental Educator and North Carolina Beekeeper certifications, published curricula for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteer Program, served as outreach coordinator for Triangle Youth Leadership Services, and completed the University Scholars Program. She was a Center for Environmental Farming Systems Food-Inspired Resilience and Equity intern, and a communications intern with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Local Food Program. She worked for the Department of Agricultural and Human Sciences as a communications assistant and was a member of the department's Racial and Social Justice Committee. Grace will pursue graduate studies in the fall.



Elizabeth Beyer

*B.S. Biological Engineering, Concentration: Ecological Engineering; B.A. Foreign Languages, Concentration: Spanish Languages and Literatures
Durham, North Carolina*

Elizabeth was active as an ambassador for the NC State College of Engineering, where she worked as a teaching assistant for introductory courses and led engineering activities for K-12 students. She served as vice president of Alpha Epsilon honor society and secretary of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Elizabeth received a grant for her independent research project studying stream erosion, and she later conducted research on invasive species spread with the Center for Geospatial Analytics. After graduation, Elizabeth will teach in Spain through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program before pursuing graduate studies in water resources engineering.



Natalie Bress

*B.S. Electrical Engineering
Melbourne Beach, Florida*

Natalie served as vice president of NC State Student Government and as a member of various university committees. She was a president and member of the 321 Coffee Student Organization, a fitness instructor at Wellness and Recreation, and a research assistant in the robotics lab, and she completed internships with L3Harris and AST Technology Labs. After graduation, she will move back to Melbourne, Florida, to start a job as an electrical engineer for Collins Aerospace.



Kelci Cox

*B.S. Biological Sciences, Concentration: Integrative Physiology and Neurobiology; Minor: Art and Design
Düsseldorf, Germany*

Kelci served on the TEDxNCState planning committee as a project developer and the head of speaker recruitment. She spent a summer in Hanoi, Vietnam, volunteering as an English teacher with Vietnamese Community Volunteering. She also conducted research on a wide variety of topics. She investigated the effects of microgravity on telomere length in plants, mother-infant behavior in lemurs, and nematode resistance in crops. Kelci plans to pursue a graduate degree in the neurosciences.



Andrew Daddone

*B.S. Mechanical Engineering; Minor: Business Administration
Frederick, Maryland*

Andrew served as the chief operating officer of the nonprofit organization Scivir, traveled to Ethiopia to do service work with the Ethiopian Children's Appeal, and volunteered in the Dominican Republic with Service for Peace. He was also a member of Phi Kappa Tau social fraternity. Andrew worked as a mechanical engineering co-op staffer for Specialty Product Technology and as a research assistant in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene lab at NC State. He also completed a summer study-abroad session at Oxford University. Andrew plans to finish his degree next year and work as a mechanical engineer in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Megan D'Agostino

*B.S. Mathematics and Math Education, Minor: Spanish
Hendersonville, North Carolina*

Megan served on the board of the Kappa Chapter of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She was a member of Student Advocates for Youth, Voluntarios Ahora en Raleigh, the Raleigh Civic Symphony, the Passport to Success Program, the University Scholars Program, and the 2022 Park Class Distinguished Speakers Committee. She was a Marian Drane Graham Scholar with the UNC System, studied abroad in Spain, and conducted mathematics research with an Illinois State University program and a research group at NC State. After graduation, Megan plans to teach high school mathematics in the public school system.



Liam Dao

*B.S. Economics; Minor: Statistics; M.S. Analytics
Greenville, North Carolina*

Liam worked as the chief operating officer of 321 Coffee, a coffee shop and roaster that employs adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He also spent time with Feed the Pack, the Sports Analytics Club, and Labor Labs, where he helped with research focused on object detection in sports. As a part of the MSA curriculum, Liam was named as the team lead for his eight-month-long practicum project, for which he and his team worked with a federal agency to accomplish analytical-based objectives. Liam will be joining Pendo as a data scientist upon his graduation from NC State's Institute for Advanced Analytics.



Shannon Dolan

*B.S. Environmental Sciences; Minors: Marine Science, Applied Ecology, Technical and Scientific Communication
Portland, Connecticut*

Shannon was the vice president of communication for coed honors environmental fraternity Epsilon Eta, a Sustainability Steward, and a teaching assistant. Shannon and fellow Park Scholar Annalise Hafner '22 received an NC State Sustainability Fund grant for a pilot program to distribute reusable metal straws on campus. As a Doris Duke Conservation Scholar, she was a research assistant on an oyster reef drone aerial mapping project and a fisheries acoustician intern aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research cruise. Shannon will pursue a doctoral degree in biological oceanography at the University of California San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography.



Katelyn Glen

*B.S. Biological Sciences, Concentration: Human Biology; Minors: Nutrition, Sports Science
North Wilkesboro, North Carolina*

Katelyn served as a Civic Engagement Initiative facilitator, an outreach committee head for 321 Coffee, a small group facilitator for Triangle Youth Leadership Conference, and a children's group facilitator with InterAct of Wake County. She was a member of the University Scholars Program, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the Pre-Health club, and she served as a volunteer for WakeMed Raleigh's surgical services department. She conducted research with a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Inclusive Excellence grant, interned with Urban Ministries, and worked as a certified nurse aide at Watauga Medical Center. Katelyn is pursuing a career in medicine and has accepted a position as a clinical research coordinator at Monroe Biomedical Research.



Annalise Hafner

*B.S. Biochemistry; B.S. Nutrition Science; Minor: Spanish
Charleston, South Carolina*

Annalise was active within NC State Wellness and Recreation as a wellness coach, personal trainer, and F45 coach and was involved in the 321 Coffee student organization. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she studied abroad in Valencia, Spain, and interned with Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less through NC State Extension. After graduation, Annalise will continue coaching F45 and plans to pursue nutrition coaching before completing a master's in nutrition and becoming a registered dietitian.



Daniel Haller

*B.S. Chemical Engineering; Minors: English, Mathematics, Biotechnology
Waxhaw, North Carolina*

Daniel founded the Science Olympiad Alumni Organization at NC State and served as an Honors and Scholars Village fellow. He received the Goldwater Scholarship and was named a 2021 Future Leader in Chemical Engineering. He performed research in synthetic biology and metabolic engineering. Daniel plans to pursue a Ph.D. in systems, synthetic, and physical biology at Rice University, supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.



Sarah Hartsell

*B.A. History; B.A. English; M.A. English, Concentration: Rhetoric and Composition
Hickory, North Carolina*

Sarah served as the chair of the Service Raleigh Partners Committee, the Campus Events Coordinator and Food Donation Coordinator of Feed the Pack food pantry, and an ambassador for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. As a University Scholar and member of the English Honors Program, she completed graduate coursework and created a capstone project on curriculum development for first-year writing programs. She also worked as a writing tutor for the Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes. After graduation, Sarah will be joining PRI as a digital marketing copywriter.



Hayley Harwood

*B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Minor: Russian Studies
Chattanooga, Tennessee*

Hayley served on the leadership team of Silver Wings and helped organize service projects focusing on suicide prevention among veterans. She studied abroad in the United Kingdom and interned in the pharmaceutical division of Thermo Fisher Scientific. At NC State, she performed research on high-temperature electromagnetic absorbing materials and their applications for stealth fighter jets. Hayley will begin her career at Boeing after graduation.



Annie Haunton

*BSW Social Work; Minors: Biological Sciences, Sociology
Hickory, North Carolina*

Annie co-founded the Global Health Cooperative at NC State, interned and led trips for the Alternative Service Break program, and served on the leadership team for the Raleigh More-Light Presbyterian Campus Ministry. She volunteered weekly on the pediatrics floor of WakeMed Hospital and for Wake County's Western Region Food Security Action Group. Annie also interned with Catawba County Public Health and worked as a habilitation technician and certified nursing assistant. She passionately served on mental health and diversity-focused committees within the Park Scholarships program. After graduation, Annie plans to earn a master's degree in social work, specializing in medical and behavioral health practice.



Abby Hodges

*B.S. Genetics; Minors: Psychology and Health; Medicine and Human Values
Wilson, North Carolina*

Abby volunteered at UNC's Emergency Department and led an Alternative Service Break trip to Alaska. She also worked as a health and wellness coach, a teaching assistant in genetics, and an orientation leader while at NC State. She was also a medical director intern at Urban Ministries of Wake County and a research intern with Brody School of Medicine's Pediatric Department, working on research related to neonatal abstinence syndrome. Additionally, she assisted in toxicology research on stress and health in pregnancy. After graduation, Abby will be a MedServe fellow at ECU Physicians, focusing on clinical and community health in Greenville, North Carolina, while applying to medical school.



Micah Holdsworth

*BEDA Architecture
Antalya, Turkey*

Micah served as leader of the international hospitality ministry at Antioch College and designer for Musical Empowerment and 321 Coffee. He was involved in College Mentors for Kids, and he volunteered in homeless and disaster relief ministries. Micah placed second in the Sigmon Memorial Design Competition, received the William and Jane Valentine Scholarship, and was nominated for the AIA Triangle Scholarship. He interned twice at 100 Fold Studio and plans to pursue graduate work in architecture focusing on community development.



F. Zack Jenio

*B.S. Biological Sciences; M.S. Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Dubai, United Arab Emirates*

Zack served as the program assistant and a health and wellness coach in the Thrivewell division of Wellness and Recreation. He was a researcher within the Comparative Medical Institute at the College of Veterinary Medicine and conducted experiments in cellular biology and clinical treatment efficacy. Zack is also a member of the Park Scholarships Leadership and Diversity Academy committee, a Freshman Retreat facilitator, and a Park LGBTQ+ Affinity group facilitator. Off campus, he worked with Yallah al-Quds, a nonprofit that runs language and culture exchange programs for Arabic and English speakers. After graduation, Zack plans to pursue a career in public health and well-being.



Tatum Kellum

*B.S. Biological Sciences, Concentration: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Minors: Nonprofit Studies; Microbiology; Health, Medicine, and Human Values
Jacksonville, North Carolina*

Tatum served as a race director for the Krispy Kreme Challenge and as an Honors and Scholars Village fellow. Tatum was also a member of the Social Innovation fellows. She volunteered as an ESL teacher for Vietnam Community Volunteers in Hanoi, Vietnam, earned her EMT license in eastern North Carolina, and interned with a plastic surgeon. Tatum works in a COVID-19 testing lab as a molecular technician and as a COVID screener for a neurology practice. After graduation, Tatum plans to pursue a career in medicine.



Natalie Kraft

*B.S. Computer Science; B.S. Economics
Winston-Salem, North Carolina*

A believer in interdisciplinary perspectives, Natalie was the co-founder and director of TEDxNCState. She led her own research team with the Laboratory for Analytic Sciences in the computational social sciences and interned with MassMutual. Natalie immersed herself abroad through volunteer and internship positions in Cambodia and Austria, respectively. Her engineering experience was extended through her independent learning of carpentry and product fabrication. After graduation, Natalie will be pursuing a master's in computer science at NC State.



Shevani Mehta

*B.A. Economics; B.A. Spanish Language and Literature; B.A. International Studies, Concentration: Global Relations
Holly Springs, North Carolina*

Shevani served as the vice president and president of the Alexander Hamilton Scholars dual-degree program. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she performed research on the impact of globalization in Chile, studied abroad in Peru, volunteered for the Krispy Kreme Challenge, and interned with organizations such as the Institute for Emerging Issues and the U.S. Department of State. Upon graduation, Shevani will pursue a juris doctor degree at the University of Virginia School of Law.



Emily Ostermann

*B.S. Chemical Engineering; Minors: Biotechnology, Chinese Studies, Biological Sciences
Toms River, New Jersey*

Emily served as president of and volunteered with the 321 Coffee student organization at NC State. She conducted undergraduate research in plant disease diagnostics with Qingshan Wei's chemical engineering group, and she studied abroad in China and interned with the textile recycling startup Circ LLC. Upon graduation, Emily will pursue a chemical engineering Ph.D. at Princeton University.



Shannon Pinnell

*B.S. Electrical Engineering
Hillsborough, North Carolina*

Shannon serves as co-founder and vice president of Scivir, a nonprofit dedicated to making quality sensing technology more accessible. She was involved in undergraduate research in biophotonics with the NSF ASSIST Center and received multiple fellowships as part of this work. She has completed internships with MIT Lincoln Labs and has received a Division Award. She plans to attend Duke University and pursue a doctoral degree in electrical engineering focusing on sensor networks.



Beth Rodgers

*B.S. Mathematics; B.S. Mathematics Education
Kernersville, North Carolina*

Beth served as the president, vice president, and education council representative of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics Kappa chapter. She was also named an outstanding member of the organization in April of 2020. In addition, Beth worked with Erin Krupa as an undergraduate research assistant studying peer feedback among math educators. She was a dedicated soprano in the NC State Chorale, singing with them for seven semesters. Beth finished her student teaching at Vernon Malone College and Career Academy early to accept a job working as a math intervention teacher at Green Level High School. In the fall she will continue working there in a full-time classroom teaching capacity.



Alexa Roland

*B.A. French Language and Literature; M.A. Francophone Literary and Cultural Studies
Sarasota, Florida*

Alexa was selected to present her research on the French fashion industry at NC State's annual Graduate Research Symposium on behalf of the M.A. in foreign languages and literatures. She taught two semester French courses at NC State and served as a graduate school ambassador. Alexa worked as a creative specialist and director of project management at an ethically sourced handbag manufacturer in addition to serving in internships with the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and local sustainable fashion nonprofit Redress Raleigh. Upon graduation from her accelerated bachelor's/master's program, Alexa will pursue a career in law.



Ethan Scheper

*B.S. Applied Mathematics; B.S. Statistics; Minor: Business Administration
Charlotte, North Carolina*

Ethan was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the University Scholars Program. He was also active on campus in his social fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, played on the NC State club tennis team, and collected statistics for the men's and women's basketball teams for multiple seasons. He interned with SAS in two different roles and was a teaching assistant in NC State's Department of Mathematics for many semesters. Ethan will be staying in Raleigh after graduation to pursue a Master of Science in Analytics from NC State's Institute for Advanced Analytics.



Shaily Shah

*B.S. Chemical Engineering; Minor: Business Administration
Apex, North Carolina*

Shaily joined Service Raleigh as a co-head for the logistics committee, and she continued to lead as co-chair throughout her college career. Shaily contributed to the Wellness and Recreation program at NC State as a yoga instructor and program manager. Additionally, she served as a co-chair for the Class of 2022's Learning Lab I. Shaily was a year-round intern at Parker LORD in Cary, North Carolina. She completed internships in business development, chemical formulation, and process engineering. After graduation, Shaily will join Parker LORD full time as a process engineer focusing on the electric vehicle market.



Noor Shehata

*B.A. Political Science, Concentration: Law and Justice, Sociology; Minor: Art Studies
Advance, North Carolina*

Noor served as the president of American Justice Corps at NC State, was a part of NC State's Civic Action Network, and was a member of the Zeta Epsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She completed a legislative internship within the U.S. House of Representatives and studied art history abroad in Florence, Italy. After graduation, Noor plans to pursue a master's degree in sociology with a focus in social justice.



Nadia Sheppard

*B.S. Environmental Engineering; Minor: Agroecology
Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

Nadia served as undergraduate representative and chair for the Sustainability Fund Advisory Board. She also served as the chair for the NC State University Climate Reality Corps. She performed research on hydrolysis of fluorinated pesticides and investigated pesticide contamination in private water wells in North Carolina. Nadia studied abroad at the University of Western Australia and received funding to research suberin and subsoil management at the University of Bonn. After graduation, Nadia plans to continue studying emerging contaminants in graduate school.



Thomas Steckmann

*B.S. Physics; B.S. Mathematics
Cary, North Carolina*

Thomas Steckmann served as the president of the Quantum Information Club at NC State and as an officer in the NC State Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. He has membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Pi Sigma. Through internships at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and at NC State he published research on quantum computing and polymer electronics. After graduation, Thomas will pursue a career developing applications for quantum computers.



Daniel Toole

*B.S. Agricultural Business Management; Minor: Political Science
Brevard, North Carolina*

Daniel served as the state president for the North Carolina FFA Association and as a workshop facilitator for various FFA leadership conferences. He was a member of Chi Alpha Christian ministry, where he served as a men's spiritual development leader and worship team leader. He also worked as a teaching assistant for nine courses in agricultural policy and interned for two years in sales and market research for BASF. After graduation Daniel plans to pursue a career as a physician.



Trenton Wallis

*B.S. Electrical Engineering; M.S. Electrical Engineering
Lillington, North Carolina*

Trenton has served as the CEO and founder of the Embedded Machine Learning Club. He also previously served as director and founder of TEDxNCState. Trenton volunteers for the Engineering Career Fair and has received internships at John Deere, Eaton, Dropworks, and Tesla. Trenton has also won awards at Wolfden and eGames for his entrepreneurial efforts. After graduation, Trenton will pursue his master's degree in electrical engineering at NC State.



Lauren Warner

*B.S. Mechanical Engineering; Minor: Industrial Engineering; M.S. Mechanical Engineering
Nokesville, Virginia*

Lauren served as the president of Pi Tau Sigma, pre-race department head of the Krispy Kreme Challenge, and co-chair of the Park Community Committee. She was a researcher in the Intelligent Systems and Structures Research Lab, performing research on fluidic artificial muscles, and interned with Sierra Space. After graduation, Lauren will intern with Sierra Space again this summer and complete her master’s degree in mechanical engineering in the fall.



Noah Wolfe

*B.S. Physics; B.S. Mathematics
Mooresville, North Carolina*

At NC State Noah conducted research in computational astrophysics, studying the deaths of stars, and he did research to test general relativity in the LIGO Astrophysics Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, earning the Goldwater Scholarship and Astronaut Scholarship in recognition of his work. He also served as the CEO and co-founder of the environmental justice and air quality technology nonprofit Scivir. Starting in the fall, Noah will begin doctoral study in gravitational wave astrophysics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Ben Zino

*B.S. Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, Concentration: Conservation Biology; Minor: Environmental Education
Salisbury, North Carolina*

Ben served as the co-president of the Herpetology Club and fundraising coordinator of the Leopold Wildlife Club. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, he conducted large mammal research at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and is now leading a project investigating biases in citizen science snake observation data. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in herpetology and science communication through his YouTube channel, The Wild Report.

Park Alumni Society

The Park Alumni Society, founded in 2003, allows alumni to give back to both the Park Scholarships program and NC State University by fostering connections within these communities. All Park alumni and current Park Scholars are members of the organization, which provides access to special events and an exclusive online network.

Officers:

- Caroline Ellington '13, President
- Mary Charles Hale '13, Vice President
- Sam Slater '07, Treasurer
- Jessica Modeen '04, Secretary

Voting Board:

- Margaret Ellen Christensen '02
- Khari Cyrus '16
- Leah Haile '13
- Remy Roque '06
- Dani Winter Lay '18



ALUMNI UPDATES

Park alumni continue to excel after leaving NC State. They attend prestigious graduate schools and pursue fulfilling careers in the corporate, nonprofit, and public service sectors. They remain engaged with the program by networking with Park Scholars about internship and research opportunities in their fields, providing financial support to the program, and serving as mentors to current students. They help recruit and select new Park Scholars, serve on advisory committees, drive initiatives like the Black Park Collective, and lead the Park Alumni Society.

Thomas Bailey '19 is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Notre Dame, studying nuclear physics. He is working on the development of standard reference materials used to measure low concentrations of uranium isotopes that can be used to better understand the effect of global fallout from events like atmospheric weapons testing and the Fukushima accident.

Anahid Behrouzi '11 was awarded early tenure to the rank of associate professor of architectural engineering at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She will continue to develop curriculum highlighting the contributions of underrepresented engineers as well as physical and virtual hands-on activities for sixth-through twelfth-grade outreach programs and university-level courses.

Margaret Leak Borden '15 is a graduate student in mathematics education at NC State and a graduate research assistant working on a project designing high school mathematics entrepreneurial challenges. She is also a consultant, working as both a curriculum writer and a project-based learning coach for a couple of small nonprofits.

Ric Chapman '13 is a mechanical engineer at Sierra Space in Madison, Wisconsin, working on projects to expand and commercialize access to low earth orbit. He is the design lead for the controllers of the propulsion and life support motorized valves on the Dream Chaser spaceplane, which is scheduled to have its maiden flight in early 2023. He additionally contributes as Sierra Space's responsible engineer for water recovery and management on Orbital Reef, a joint venture with Blue Origin to develop the first commercial space station.



Kenneth Erickson '18 is a legislative support specialist supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, D.C. He works with leaders in the executive and legislative branches of the federal government to support NOAA's priorities in marine, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric environments and to develop science-based policy solutions to pressing environmental challenges.

Michael Evans '21 and Lindsay Wrege '21 have been working full time on 321 Coffee since graduation. In that time, they've opened two shops in Raleigh. One located in Pendo's Raleigh office and another at 615 Hillsborough Street. A downtown Durham location at 300 Morris Street is expected to open this fall.

Kylie Goodell King '08 was recently promoted to associate professor at Champlain College, where she teaches business analytics and entrepreneurship courses and directs the college's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Kylie is also a research fellow with the Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the Center for the Study of Capitalism at Wake Forest University.

Zack Goodman '16 completed his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California San Diego. He is now a data scientist at Recidiviz, a nonprofit tech company that makes software and conducts research for state governments to help improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals. He continues to guide elite paratriathlete Kyle Coon at paratriathlon races around the world.

Emily McGuinness '16 completed her Ph.D. in materials science and engineering at Georgia Tech, where she was awarded a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She will stay to complete a postdoctoral fellowship for a year, and then move to the University of Minnesota for an additional postdoctoral fellowship. Her thesis earned the Georgia Tech Sigma Xi Best Thesis award. During her time at Georgia Tech she has most enjoyed mentoring seven undergraduate and two graduate researchers as well as teaching a class on polymers, fibers, and textiles. She loves engaging with students around the intersection of science and art and helped kick-start the Science of Art Learning and Discovery team at Georgia Tech.

Meghan McIntyre '07 was promoted to senior professor of mathematics at Wake Technical Community College.

Liz Miller '07 collaborated with her father to write his memoir, *You Can't Do That!*, the story of how he left the Amish community without a formal high school education and went on to become a medical doctor. The book was published in May. This is Liz's second book, her first being the bilingual children's book *Dandelion Wishes*.

Ryan R. Neely III '09 is an associate professor of observational atmospheric science at the University of Leeds and the U.K.'s National Centre for Atmospheric Science. In the past year, Neely's group has been awarded over £2,800,000 to use world-leading remote sensing techniques (i.e., weather radar) to examine atmospheric phenomena that range from clouds over Greenland to the diversity of aerial insects.





Sarah Pless '02 is adding to her lecture series portfolio with an upcoming presentation to London dentists on best Invisalign practices for general dentists.

Mikayla Raleigh '17 recently obtained both her Certified Financial Planner and her Retirement Income Certified Professional designations.

Theresa Crowgey Seay '10 is an anesthesiologist practicing in Birmingham, Alabama. She and her husband, Winn, welcomed their son, Winn Henry, this past September and are enjoying getting their COVID baby out and exploring the world!

Sam Slater '07 is a partner with Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP in Raleigh. His law practice focuses on business litigation and land-use law.

Katie Starr '11 relocated to Los Angeles and works as a public health nurse for the LA County Department of Public Health. She works in COVID-19 emergency response in schools, provides sexual and reproductive health services to high school youth, and works for the county's Children's Medical Services office, providing medical consultations for children and youth in the child welfare system.

In May 2022, **Jack Tucker '20** received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. Starting in August 2022, he will serve as a law clerk for the Honorable Andrew L. Brasher on the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. After completing his clerkship with Judge Brasher in 2023, Jack will return to the 11th Circuit in 2024 as a law clerk for the court's chief judge, the Honorable William H. Pryor Jr.

Tommy Vitolo '00 is serving his second term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, his first as the vice chair of election laws. He has worked successfully to change law and policy to support equity and inclusion, public education, clean electricity, expanded mass transit, and new or deeply renovated net-zero public housing construction.

Eric Warren Jr. '20 is nearing completion of his clerkships at the Duke School of Medicine. In August he will begin a year of research with the shoulder division of Duke Orthopedic Surgery under Dr. Oke Anakwenze.

Stephanie Wenclawski '16 graduated from University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business with an MBA.



RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The Park Scholarships program serves as an important recruitment tool for NC State, attracting talented students to the university. A Selection Committee comprising 428 accomplished NC State alumni, faculty, and friends conducted application review, interviews, and outreach. This year, 30% of all applicants to the Park Scholarships program and half of the high-achieving students who attended Final Selection Activities decided to enroll at NC State. The university provided a \$10,000 scholarship to each Finalist who did not receive a Park Scholarship but enrolled at NC State.

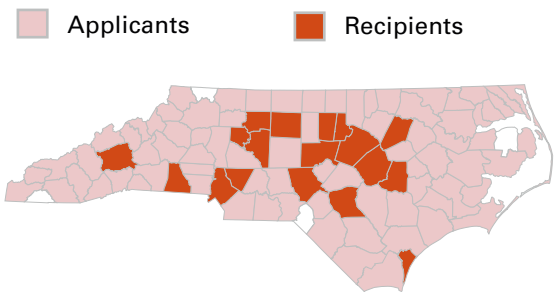
This year, Final Selection Activities returned to campus after a fully remote selection cycle. Park Scholarships welcomed 112 Finalists to NC State, showing off the beautiful campus, state-of-the-art resources, and people who bring campus to life: faculty, staff, and students. Finalists also took part in interviews and group discussion activities. Optional interest groups convened over breakfast to allow current students to share insights into their experiences. The interest groups included LGBTQ+, people of color, under-resourced communities, and spiritual/secular beliefs, among other identities and affiliations.

At the Finalist Reception, Finalists and their families joined Park Scholars, alumni, NC State faculty, deans, and Selection Committee members. More than 400 guests enjoyed a program featuring remarks from Chancellor Randy Woodson, Park Scholarships Director Eva Feucht '02, and Park Scholars Ben Gaddy '07, Zack Jenio '22, and Pallavi Patel '25.

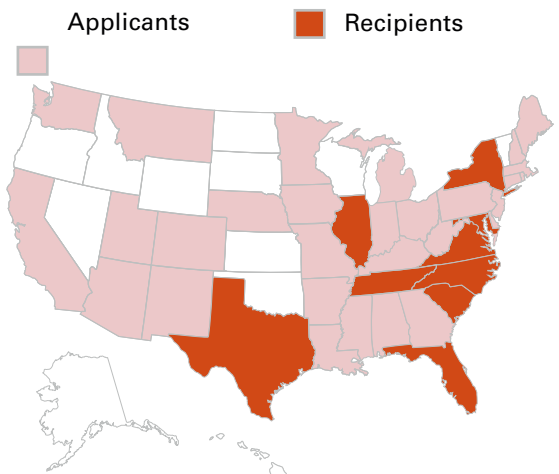
Number of Candidates by Stage

Applicants	2,260
Semifinalists	500
Finalists	112
Class of 2026	41

Applicants and Recipients by County



Applicants and Recipients by State



Applicants also hailed from Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., Bangladesh, France, and South Africa.

Park Under-Resourced Assistance

Started by Park Scholars in the Class of 2024, Park Under-Resourced Assistance (PURA) is available to help candidates through each phase of the selection process. PURA supports under-resourced applicants to NC State University and the Park Scholarships program by offering constructive essay feedback and advice throughout the interview process. Park Scholars invite under-resourced applicants to interact with the community and grow alongside Park Scholars.



CLASS OF 2026



The 27th class of Park Scholars was selected from a pool of 2,260 applicants from 96 of North Carolina's 100 counties, 41 states and territories, and four countries on the basis of outstanding achievements and potential in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Dalya Al Obaidi

Charles E. Jordan Senior High School
Durham, North Carolina

Nathan Auman

Union Pines High School
Jackson Springs, North Carolina

Luke Biller

Home School
Raleigh, North Carolina

Michael Blunt

Palmetto Scholars Academy
Summerville, South Carolina

Caedance Brady

West Forsyth High School
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Isaac Carreno

Wayne School of Engineering
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Bethel Chanyalew

Montgomery Blair High School
Silver Spring, Maryland

Asha Coltrane

Charles E. Jordan Senior High School
Durham, North Carolina

Sawyer Cumbow

Enka High School
Biltmore Lake, North Carolina

Isaac Drown

West Johnston High School
Smithfield, North Carolina

Disha Dureja

Illinois Math and Science Academy
Fox River Grove, Illinois

Emma Fomes

Apex High School
Apex, North Carolina

Sydnee Fryer

South Mecklenburg High School
Charlotte, North Carolina

Shiva Gadireddy

Cox Mill High School
Concord, North Carolina

Sascha Godfrey

Orange High School
Mebane, North Carolina

Ana-Victoria Gomez

Winter Park High School
Maitland, Florida

Anil Gordon

Terry Sanford Senior High School
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Hyasen Gray

Jack Britt High School
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Sydney Loffin

Home School
Denton, North Carolina

Cole Malinchock

Chapel Hill High School
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Nayah McKenzie

Baldwin Senior High School
Baldwin, New York

Eleanor Meinhold

Isaac Bear Early College High School
Wilmington, North Carolina

Chalina Morgan-Lopez

Sanderson High School
Raleigh, North Carolina

Siri Mudunuri

Athens Drive Senior High School
Cary, North Carolina

Abigail Mulry

Northern Guilford High School
Greensboro, North Carolina

Jayda Murray

Faith Heritage Christian Academy
Memphis, Tennessee

Osarobo Obasuyi

Bishop Lynch High School
Plano, Texas

Akshar Patel

Northwest Cabarrus High School
Concord, North Carolina

Krish Patel

Cary High School
Cary, North Carolina

Ariana Paul

Valley Stream North High School
Valley Stream, New York

Dylan Philipps

Chatham School of Science and Engineering
Pittsboro, North Carolina

Anna Powell

Northern Nash High School
Battleboro, North Carolina

Eli Roberts

Crest High School
Shelby, North Carolina

Caden Robinette

North East Carolina Prep School
Pinetops, North Carolina

Sophia Scherer

Forsyth Country Day School
Advance, North Carolina

Brennan Selcz

Lake Norman High School
Mooresville, North Carolina

Molly Smith

North Moore High School
Robbins, North Carolina

Norah Sutton

Stafford Senior High School
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Chinmay Talikoti

Enloe Magnet High School
Cary, North Carolina

Karla Velasquez-Contreras

Jay M. Robinson High School
Concord, North Carolina

Adam Womble

Hanahan High School
Hanahan, South Carolina

Class of 2026 Park Faculty Scholars

Karey Harwood

Associate Professor, Religious Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Naji Hussein

Teaching Associate Professor and Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering

Meara Kane of Knotts Island, North Carolina, and Jacob Stewart of Statesville, North Carolina, were also selected as Park Scholars and deferred enrollment this year. Sascha Godfrey was selected as a Park Scholar in 2021 and deferred to enroll in the Class of 2026.

SUPPORTING PARK SCHOLARS

For 26 years, the Park Scholarships program has brought exceptional students to NC State and prepared them to make an impact. The program continues to thrive through the sustained generosity of scholars, alumni, parents, volunteers, and friends.

From \$10 gifts directed to the Park Scholarships Sustaining Endowment, to the creation of the program's 10th co-named Park Scholarship, the committed Park Scholarships donor community showed that big things can be accomplished through sustained giving.

Small incremental gifts add up to make big changes. Nowhere was this more apparent this year than with the Park Scholarships Sustaining Endowment, which is bringing a 41st Park Scholar to the Class of 2026. Nearly 1,200 donors have made over 3,500 gifts to the endowment since it was launched in 2013 by the Park Alumni Society, and more than three-quarters of these gifts have been \$100 or less. The collective impact of these donations is making a big difference for the program. Adding a 41st Park Scholar to the Class of 2026 is not only life-changing for the selected student and the student's family, but also produces a ripple effect for the Park Class of 2026, the network of nearly 1,200 Park Scholars around the world, and the Park and NC State communities as a whole.

When NC State Day of Giving returned on March 23, the Park Scholarships community came together to raise 555 gifts from 243 donors in just 24 hours. The gifts totaled \$458,811, which will support scholarships, enrichment programming, and more. The Park Philanthropy Council and alumni class advocates helped ensure that Park Scholars from every single class made a gift. Thanks to the impressive dedication of the Park community, the program earned more than \$10,000 in challenge and bonus funds through participation and social media challenges.

Finally, on Day of Giving, generous Park Scholar parents committed the program's 10th co-named Park Scholarship, a lasting commitment to the longevity of the program. A gift at this level — a \$350,000 endowment — is matched 100% with existing Park Foundation funds to support one Park Scholarship in perpetuity. Since 2017, 10 co-named Park Scholarships have been created by Park alumni, families, faculty, and volunteers.

Every day, Park Scholars drive meaningful change in communities near and far. Investing in exceptional students dedicated to scholarship, leadership, service, and character has the power to change lives and change the world.

100%

The entire Class of 2022 has made a gift to support Park Scholarships.

park.ncsu.edu/give

visit to support the Park Scholars

“

Generous gifts from Park donors continue to support Park Scholars to think of nothing less than shooting for the stars while we discover our passions, our dreams, and our purpose.

— Natalie Kraft '22

“

Being a Park Scholar exposed me to one of the easiest math problems I solved during my time as an undergraduate math student: the people, resources, and opportunities provided by the program all add up to an unparalleled experience that would not be possible without your contributions.

— Ethan Scheper '22

“

Park Scholarships has given me the opportunity to be the first in my family to go to college. I can't thank the staff and supporters enough. The program has truly changed my life.

— Ethan Shumate '23

“

Seeing Park Scholars reinvest in our program shows the faith we have in the value and strength of the Park community.

— Keya Pothireddy '23

Directory



After more than 22 years as the Park Scholarships program executive assistant, Rosalyn Eagleton retired on March 1, 2022. We all wish her a long and happy retirement and thank her for her decades of service to the Park Scholarships community.





Park Scholarships Staff

Eva Feucht '02

Director

Joy Tongsri

Senior Associate Director

Sarah Ho

Associate Director, Enrichment

Rachel Cox

Assistant Director, Communications

Meghan Hunt

Assistant Director, Development

Nikkiya White

Assistant Director, Recruiting and Selection

Contina Jackson

Temporary Executive Assistant

Alexa DeFalco

Graduate Assistant

Jessica Alvarez

Program Assistant, Development and Selection 2021-2022

Kimberly Bloomfield '02

Program Assistant, Selection 2021-2022

Angela Swicegood

Program Assistant, Selection 2021-2022

Adrian Teegarden '19

Program Assistant, Selection 2021-2022



Park Advisory Committee

The Park Advisory Committee provides counsel to Park Scholarships staff on academic enrichment activities.

George Hess, Chair

Professor, Forestry and Environmental Resources

Sarah Ash

Professor Emerita, Nutrition Science

Ricky Bloomfield '02

Clinical and Health Informatics Lead, Apple; CEO, G-Whizz! Apps

Karen Bullock

Professor and Head of the School of Social Work, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Sean Cassidy

Director, University Honors and Scholars Programs

Landra Cunningham '03

Senior Marketing Technical Communicator, SAS Institute

Mary Elting '07

Assistant Professor, Physics

Spencer Johnson '09

Technical Staff Member, MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Susan Navey-Davis

Assistant Department Head for Student Affairs, Foreign Languages and Literatures

Lisa Parks

Teaching Associate Professor, Biological Sciences

Kanton Reynolds

Teaching Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Programs, Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Doneka Scott

Vice Chancellor and Dean, Division of Academic and Student Affairs

Melanie Simpson

Professor and Department Head, Molecular and Structural Biochemistry

Shweta Trivedi

Teaching Associate Professor, Animal Science; Director, VetPAC

Park Service Advisory Committee

The Park Scholarships Service Advisory Committee provides guidance on planning and evaluation of the sophomore year Civic Engagement Initiatives.

Sarah Ash

Professor Emerita, Nutrition Science

John Begeny

Associate Professor, Psychology

Natalie Chazal '21

Park Scholar

Brad Davis

Executive Director, WakeMed Foundation

Kristin Murphy

Principal, Green Peak Partners

Rosalynn Phan '19

Automation Engineer, GlaxoSmithKline

Sharene Pierce '01

Vice President of Engineering Carolinas West, Duke Energy

Kati Scruggs '18

Graduate Student, Master of Public Health and Registered Dietitian Program

Joy Tongsri (ex officio)

Senior Associate Director, Park Scholarships

Park Enrichment Grant Committee

The Park Enrichment Grant Committee reviews proposals and awards funding for Park Enrichment Grants and Park Alumni Society Study Abroad Travel Stipends.

Clifford Griffin, Chair

Associate Professor, Political Science

Sarah Ash

Professor Emerita, Nutrition Science

Veronica Catete

Research Scientist, Computer Science

Holly Hurlburt

Assistant Dean and Executive Director for Academic Enrichment Programming, University College

Michelle Schroeder-Moreno

Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor, Agroecology

Samuel Slater '07

Treasurer, Park Alumni Society; Attorney, Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP

Sarah Ho (ex officio)

Associate Director, Park Scholarships

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Loujain Al Samara
Grace Baucom
Elizabeth Beyer
Natalie Bress
Kelci Cox
Andrew Daddone
Liam Dao
Shannon Dolan
Katelyn Glen
Annalise Hafner
Daniel Haller
Sarah Hartsell
Hayley Harwood
Annie Haunton
Abby Hodges
Micah Holdsworth
Zack Jenio
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Emily Ostermann
Shannon Pinnell
Megan D'Agostino
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Noor Shehata
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Trenton Wallis
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Noah Wolfe
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Shriya Bhoothapuri
Hannah Braun
Kevin Cabral
Shannon Carney
Megan Cislo
Bella Condo
Christiana Daniel
Cat Dean
Ariana Frazier
Daniel Friday
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Cailin Harrington
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Sarah Jarrell
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