

Student Research and Internship Symposium

Colorado College

Summer Faculty-Student Collaborative Research
(SCoRe)

Summer Internship Presentations

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

3-5pm



SCHEDULE

Student Research & Internship Symposium

Friday, September 25, 2026
Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center

Oral Presentations, 3-3:50 P.M. RICHARD F. CELESTE THEATRE

Opening Remarks

Pedro de Araujo, Chief Operating Officer

Student Oral Presentations

Maggie Fitzgerald '29, Embassy of Jordan, Washington D.C.

Sophia Kang '27, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Saxony, Germany

Ian Nyberg '27, Colorado Department of Labor and Enforcement in Denver, CO

Ja'Toria Johnson '27, 'Accessible Design Thinking: Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Independent Making'

Theo Seoman '27, Nalaquq in Quinhagak, Alaska

Kaviya Chidambaram '27, Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation Chennai in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

3:50-5 P.M. CORNERSTONE MAIN SPACE

Research and Internship Presentations

3:50-4:25 P.M. Session 1 Research Poster 1-Poster 24/Internship Table 1-Table 36

4:25-5 P.M. Session 2 Research Poster 1-Poster 21/Internship Table 1-Table 35



Dear CC Community,

Our annual Student-Faculty Collaborative Research (SCoRe) & Internship Symposium showcases how Colorado College students apply what they learn in the classroom to questions and challenges beyond it.

To bring their projects to life, students developed detailed plans, adjusted their methods, worked through obstacles, and took ownership of the results. Along the way, they received dedicated guidance from faculty, staff, alumni, and professional mentors.

This is one of the core strengths of the Block Plan. When students have the time and focus to immerse themselves in a subject, they can stay with a question long enough to see where it leads. Hands-on experiences extend that focus into laboratories, businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations, empowering students to problem-solve and produce results with real impact.

The result is learning that students can use. They develop the confidence to enter unfamiliar situations, the ability to adapt when circumstances change, and a clearer sense of how their ideas can contribute beyond CC.



As you spend time with today's students and their projects, I hope you will ask them about the decisions behind what you see. What question started the project? What changed along the way? What did they learn that they did not expect? Their answers are part of the story of a Colorado College education.

Thank you to the students who are sharing their work today and to the faculty, staff, alumni, and mentors who help create the conditions for this kind of learning.

Warmly,

Pedro de Araujo
Chief Operating Officer

STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Embassy of Jordan in Washington D.C.

Student Intern: Maggie Fitzgerald '29

Major: Economics, Comparative Politics Minor

This past summer I worked for the Embassy of Jordan in the Information Bureau department. I covered conferences, press briefings, and opinion pieces that pertained to the Middle East and regional tensions around the Iran and Gaza war. I would flag any reference of Jordan in the media and cover anything President Trump did. My favorite conference I attended was on Illicit Economies in the Levant hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. This summer was an incredibly unique time to work for the Embassy due to the two wars going on in the Middle East.

Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany

Student Intern: Sophia Kang '27

Major: Neuroscience

The Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences is a leading center for cognitive neuroscience research, and I joined this summer as a research intern. My primary project was an undergraduate thesis benchmarking MR coil configurations, comparing a standard 32-channel coil against a custom built "sushi" coil, to determine which best supports concurrent transcranial ultrasound stimulation and fMRI. This involved working closely with my supervisor to design the study, troubleshoot the imaging setup, and work toward a dataset. Alongside this project, I contributed to UMBRELLA, a separate study in my lab group investigating reward learning. Together, these projects deepened my understanding of MR methodology and gave me hands-on experience with the full arc of a research study, from study design through data collection and scientific writing. This internship confirmed that research is a direction I want to pursue further, and it gave me a much clearer sense of the questions and methods I want to keep working on.

Colorado Department of Labor in Boulder, CO

Student Intern: Ian Nyberg

Major: Philosophy

This Summer, I worked for the Colorado Department of Labor as a Research intern. I worked for Scott Moss, a professor of law at CU Boulder and independent lawyer. My job was largely dedicated to data collecting and reporting from various websites and data sets. We helped pass laws to help Colorado Laborers, especially those in the agricultural and food industries, retain living wages and keep their rights. I also used publicly accessible data sites to track politicians who were supporting bills or laws that weren't consistent with their political views. During this time, I attended meetings, wrote reports, generated spreadsheets, and notated important events for my supervisor. Moreover, I learned legal and writing strategies that will help me throughout the rest of my Colorado College journey and beyond. Over all, I helped Scott Moss and his team utilize public and available tools to reinforce the checks and balances that uphold our democracy.

'Accessible Design Thinking: Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Independent Making'

Student Researcher: Ja'Toria Johnson '27

Majors: Computer Science and Art Studio

Faculty Mentor / Collaborator: Marcos Arnold '27, Dr. Varsha Koushik, Dr. Lauren Milne

Department / Program / Affiliation: Math and Computer Science

Design thinking, the ability to ideate and create a design, can be a challenging yet rewarding process, and even more beneficial for creating assistive devices for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Nevertheless, current maker tools such as 3D printers, electronic toolkits, and the overall design process are inaccessible and not beginner-friendly for people with disabilities. To address this concern, our research focuses on making the process of design thinking more accessible to individuals with IDD.

Nalaquq in Quinhagak, AK**Student Intern:** Theo Seamon '27**Major:** Environmental Science

This summer I worked for Nalaquq, an Alaska Native-owned subsidiary of Qanirtuuq, Inc., the village corporation for Quinhagak, Alaska. Nalaquq specializes in conducting research and field operations in the remote and challenging conditions of the area. This summer I helped work on developing a TAK (Team Awareness Kit) for the Quinhagak local search and rescue team (QSAR). In a rural village such as Quinhagak, local volunteers are the first to respond to emergencies and are essential for finding missing people in time. The TAK we developed will allow the QSAR team to remain in contact with each other and the village in disconnected and GPS-denied environments. Due to the nature of this project we worked very closely with the QSAR team and met with them on multiple occasions to get feedback and guide the development towards their needs.

Human Rights and Research Foundation of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India**Student Intern:** Kaviya Chidambaram '27**Major:** International Political Economy, Minor: Environmental Studies

For three decades, the Human Rights and Research Foundation of Chennai (HRF) has focused on securing entitlements, social security, and constitutional protections for marginalized groups such as fishers, incarcerated people, Scheduled Tribes/Castes, and single women in Tamil Nadu, India. This summer I co-created and implemented a Davis Project for Peace with HRF. I supported community-based SDG monitoring by conducting 30 field interviews with widowed fisherwomen across 5 districts, identifying key demands and policy failures in existing welfare schemes. Integrating my collected data with HRF's extensive database, we pinpointed 200+ issues disaggregated by district and UN SDG goal. I used this primary data to support HRF in building a gap analysis report for the Fisheries Minister to inform Tamil Nadu's new coastal resilience budget. My project concluded in a state-wide conclave, convening 45 fisherwomen who serve as union leaders or community organizers representing every coastal district. Here, organizers drafted demands for a Fisher Rights Act and launched the first statewide union of female fish workers. This project expanded access to the policymaking process, strengthened the collective bargaining power of female fish workers, and trained grassroots organizers to be even more effective leaders of their communities through cross-district knowledge sharing.

What are Internships?



Internships provide high-impact experiences that allow students to demonstrate their ability to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning in the classroom to workplace settings. Through these applied learning experiences students enhance their existing skill set, expand their professional network, and discern future career goals.

Colorado College students participate in a wide array of internships in various roles and industries. Over 120 students received Summer Internship Funding Awards for Summer 2026, allowing them to participate in internship opportunities, many of which remain unpaid or underpaid. Students who receive funding participate in prep programs, reflection activities, and ongoing support to enrich their internship experience.

Students also participated in other Colorado College sponsored internship programs such as the Public Interest Fellowship Program, offering paid fellowships in Colorado's nonprofit sector, the Charlie Blumenstein Stewardship Internship in partnership with The Nature Conservancy-Colorado, National Public Radio, and Colorado Public Radio.

To learn more about these programs, visit the Colorado College Career Center website: www.coloradocollege.edu/careercenter/

To learn more about internship funding, visit: www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/careercenter/internships/internship-funding-awards.html
We hope you enjoy hearing about their unique internship experiences!

INTERNSHIP STORYMAP PRESENTATIONS, Session #1 Table 1-Table 36

1: Colorado Fiscal Institute in Denver, Colorado Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Program

Student Intern: William Ashford

Major: International Political Economy

As a Public Interest Fellowship summer fellow for the Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI), I worked on economic policy research, coalition outreach, and grant writing/development. Much of my work centered on the Graduated Income Tax (GIT) ballot initiative campaign, which seeks to replace our state's flat 4.4% income tax rate with six graduated brackets. My research was directed primarily towards refuting claims of "wealth flight" from higher-tax states, as our measure seeks to raise rates on the wealthiest 3% of Coloradan earners. To accomplish this research, I used public tax and census information to perform data analysis and qualitative research to create graphs and original lines of argument which were used in flyers, informational pages, and research reports. I further contributed to the work of the CFI by presenting on state budget issues and networking at community meetings to bring a diverse set of nonprofits into the GIT coalition. I also contributed to the composition of 15 foundation grants through research and writing. I am proud to admit that as of Tuesday, September 1st, our proposal achieved its signature requirement and will appear on November's general election ballot.

2: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Student Intern: Fiona Bergen '28

Major: Molecular Biology Minor: Human Biology and Kinesiology

This summer, I conducted research in Dr. Maria Serena Longhi's laboratory at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Dr. Longhi is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and Deputy Director of the Center for Inflammation Research. Her lab investigates autoimmune hepatitis (AIH), an autoimmune liver disease that predominantly affects women, with a focus on how estrogen signaling contributes to T cell dysfunction and disease progression. We focused on regulatory T cells (Tregs) and Th17 cells, using blood samples from healthy controls and AIH samples from pre- and postmenopausal women. We isolated T cells and analyzed expression of estrogen receptor alpha (ER α) and beta (ER β), using GAPDH as a reference gene. This involved techniques including CD4+ T cell isolation, RNA extraction via TRIzol reagent, cDNA synthesis, and MPP treatment, along with live cell imaging, RT-qPCR, and FACS. This experience deepened my understanding of translational immunology and gave me real, hands-on experience in a lab, allowing me to gain proficiency with core equipment and molecular biology techniques. But more than that, it opened my eyes to how underexplored women's health still is in research, and made me want to continue to be part of closing that gap.

3: CU Anschutz Department of Cancer Biology and Department of Pharmacology in Denver, CO

Student Intern: Sammy Berman '28

Major: Chemistry, Minor: Education

Research collaborator at University of Colorado Anschutz within the department of Cancer Biology and the department of Pharmacology. Investigated new treatment options for High Grade Serous Carcinoma (a type of ovarian cancer with particularly devastating prognosis as a result of recurrence after chemo treatment) with CHRISPR knockouts, SiRNA transvection knockdowns, cisplatin drug sensitivity assays, and western blotting. Work was specifically centered on the Volume Regulated Anion Channel (VRAC), the major import channel of cisplatin into cells. Preliminary results suggest that Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy might increase VRAC import of cisplatin sensitizing cells to treatment. Main wet lab techniques included basic mammalian cell culture, western blotting, cell counting, and Incucyte confluence imaging for dose response curves. In this experience I learned about revising procedures and understanding the scientific process as a large portion of the summer was spent on iterating on the same experiment to obtain usable results.

4: TurnUp Activism

Student Intern: Jordan Boldt '29

Major: History and Political Science

My experience at TurnUp can best be described as a crash course in community organizing, policy research, and voter registration and turnout. Each week, I was tasked with volunteering for causes or political campaigns and completing educational research-based assignments. Some of the highlights of my internship included canvassing for Colorado's democratic nominee for governor, Phil Weiser, and phone banking for CO-01 house democratic nominee Melat Kiros. These volunteer opportunities greatly improved my communication skills, which gave me renewed confidence in my ability to advocate for political candidates. Another highlight of my internship was the research I did on two natural disasters that occurred in my town, and the degree to which climate change contributed to them. For this project, I also researched mitigation policies for homes in my town, which offered a helpful glimpse into steps people can take to lower the risk of disaster. TurnUp also hosted a speaker series, which featured talks on voter suppression, media literacy, and community organizing. These talks were helpful for learning more about the political ecosystem and the place I hold in it. Overall, I loved my internship this summer, and I am so grateful that the Career Center helped make it possible!

5: Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO & Marmarth, ND

Student Intern: Bryson Browning '29

Major: Undeclared

For the first half of my internship, I worked at the fossil prep lab at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. When preparing a fossil, the vast majority of time and work is in using air scribes (a pen-like tool that shoots a jet of pressurized air around a vibrating metal tip) and air abraders (similar to the air scribe, uses pressurized calcium bicarbonate to remove remaining rock) to separate a fossil from the rock it's embedded within. I primarily worked on a hadrosaur femur in the museum's public-facing third floor lab and a triceratops sacrum in the first-floor lab. The second half of my internship was fieldwork with the museum in Marmarth, North Dakota, where the Cretaceous Hell Creek formation meets the Paleogene Fort Lewis formation to provide an excellent snapshot of the dinosaur-killing K/Pg extinction. Days were spent either exploring the landscape in search of new fossils or helping to dig out known sites, including the only known adult T. rex trackway on Earth. It was hard work for sure, but I had a really great time with the museum, and I hope to continue building on these experiences and opportunities in the future!

6: Eisenmesser Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

Student Intern: Luke Brucker '27

Major: Biochemistry

Streptococcus pneumoniae is a gram-positive bacteria responsible for many common infections, especially in immunocompromised individuals. Its survival and infectivity depend on the synthesis of its cell wall, which in turn relies on the hexosamine enzymatic pathway. The proteins of this pathway catalyze the formation of UDP-N-acetylglucosamine (UDP-GlcNAc), an important precursor to peptidoglycan synthesis. The protein-protein interactions within the hexosamine pathway and their regulatory functions are not yet fully understood. This project sought to clone, express, and purify these recombinant proteins, then to analyze their biochemical properties and potential interactions with other enzymes in the pathway. Enzymatic activity assays indicate that GlmR modulates GlmS activity, where the presence of GlmR results in an increase in GlmS activity. The addition of UDP-GlcNAc diminished this activation, suggesting that UDP-GlcNAc may regulate this interaction. 1D NMR spectroscopy indicated that GlmR associates tightly to UDP-GlcNAc, as evidenced by UDP-GlcNAc spectral peaks after protein purification. Characterization of NagB catalytic activity revealed a pH-dependence, as well as distinct effects of active site mutations: substitution of N128 with the corresponding human residue (N128D) increases enzyme activity, while the D62A mutant completely eliminates enzyme activity.

7: Austrian Consulate Commercial Section, Chengdu, China

Student Intern: Kathrin Bürger '27

Major: International Political Economy

The Austrian Trade Commission office, branded "Advantage Austria," is an overseas office of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber's (WKO) foreign trade organization. I was placed in the Chengdu office, covering Sichuan,

Chongqing, Guizhou, and Yunnan, where my role centered on facilitating, connecting, and strengthening business cooperation between Austria and Southern China.

As part of this work, I accompanied the Trade Commissioner on a business trip to Shenzhen, visiting six companies across the EV, robotics, and technology sectors to assess partnership potential ahead of upcoming trade delegation visits. At BYD, we discussed European export opportunities alongside a tour of the headquarters, an EV battery manufacturing plant, a fast-charging station, and a test ride aboard the Sky Shuttle. Further visits included HONOR, a mobile phone manufacturer with an 85% automated production line; Shenzhen Bus Group, where we test-rode an autonomous minibus and were briefed on their Smart Management System; Tianji, including a tour of its robotics lab and highly automated robotic-arm production line; X-Bot Park, a robotics incubator platform; Direct Drive Tech; and Googol Tech.

8: TESSA of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Student Intern: Leila Campbell '27

Major: Business, Economics, and Society, Minor: Philosophy

This summer I worked with the Housing Program and PR intern at a local nonprofit. TESSA of Colorado Springs provides confidential support, safe shelter, and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. For the Housing Program, I primarily entered data from calls into Vela, which is required for TESSA to remain eligible for funding. In my PR role, I helped with annual fundraiser Pasta in the Park by spreading word through community calendars, contacting/coordinating with local news organizations, and gathering/displaying silent auction donations.

9: Birnawood Productions, Colorado Springs, CO

Student Intern: Tyriek Canty '27

Major: Film, Minor: German

During my time as a film production intern in Colorado Springs, I had the privilege of working directly under the producer of the upcoming feature film, Envoy. This experience provided comprehensive exposure to both the creative and operational facets of independent filmmaking. I assisted with pre-production scheduling, timeline development, and scene mapping to optimize shooting days. I collaborated across multiple departments during production to maintain workflow efficiency and solve real-time logistical challenges. I also gained practical insights into drafting protective talent and crew contracts to safeguard the production against legal liabilities. This internship served as a critical milestone for my career development. By observing executive decision-making firsthand, I learned how to implement cost-effective production strategies without compromising creative quality. Additionally, the role allowed me to build a strong professional network and acquire the foundational business acumen necessary to produce my own future film projects securely and efficiently.

10: Actividades, Estudios, y Proyectos en el Medioambiente and the Centro Internacional Antonio Machado, Soria, Spain

Student Intern: Isabella Cole '27

Major: Organismal Biology and Ecology

After two blocks of intensive Spanish immersion with the CC in Spain program, I had the opportunity to continue staying with my host family and complete prácticas, or an observational internship with the consulting firm Actividades, Estudios, y Proyectos en el Medioambiente. I worked with a variety of professionals in the conservation biology field in order to learn and practice environmental survey techniques utilized in impact assessments and conservation programs across the province of Soria. Simultaneously, I worked with the Centro Internacional Antonio Machado in order to direct and summarize my study of Spanish culture as it relates to public land and conservation. I was able to talk directly with farmers and work with an ornithologist on a raptor conservation incentive project throughout agricultural lands in Soria. Additionally, I participated in fieldwork for wind farm impact assessments and monitoring, helping collect bat echolocation recordings and avian species mortality statistics for this important part of Spain's power grid. Over the course of this internship, I learned about rural depopulation, history of community management and pastoralism, and attitudes towards the land. The cultural outlook that I was able to experience firsthand has and will continue to shape my understanding of conservation as a science as well as a social practice.

11: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in Lincoln, NE & Benefits in Action in Lakewood, CO

Student Intern: Ilyana Collins '29

Major: Political Science, Minor: Global Health

Over this summer, I interned with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services on their Rural Health Transformation Program grant. In this role, I gained firsthand experience analyzing state and federal roles regarding infrastructure, funding, and accessibility barriers that rural communities face. This work sharpened my skills in policy analysis and showed me exactly how federal mandates impact underfunded local health systems. I met with organizations across Nebraska that are creating systems that bring SNAP recipients into healthcare professions in rural areas. I helped create more efficient systems to encourage more organizations throughout Nebraska to participate in this grant program.

As an intern for Benefits in Action, I researched Social Security benefits to develop an expansion plan for the organization to assist people in states outside Colorado with benefit applications. Benefits in Action is a Colorado nonprofit that helps Coloradans apply for benefits, including but not limited to SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security Disability Insurance. This opportunity taught me about state and federal processes that impact benefit accessibility across Colorado. I got the opportunity to help with education materials regarding Social Security and SNAP benefits.

12: Massachusetts House of Representatives, Boston, MA

Student Intern: Holden Dalhaus '28

Major: Political Science

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern with my home district's state representative, Homar Gomez. This internship took place during deliberations on the Massachusetts Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2026. Because of this, I was able to take part in both the constituent-facing and analytical work that went into advocating for district appropriations and policy priorities. Throughout the summer, I also had the opportunity to witness the testimony and decision-making process within legislative committees, as my representative served on the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. During my internship, I drafted testimony advocating for the economic advancement of my hometown, which was delivered before the House Ways and Means Committee. In addition, I prepared legislative briefing materials by analyzing pending bills to help prepare the representative for meetings with professional associations and other stakeholders advocating for education and environmental policy. I learned so much about the legislative process, particularly how constituent engagement and policy analysis work together to shape legislation. I am incredibly grateful to Representative Homar Gomez and his office for providing me with this opportunity.

13: Phil Weiser for Colorado & Professional Storytelling, Denver, CO

Student Intern: Maddie Dimetrosky '27

Major: Film and Media Studies and Journalism

This summer I had the opportunity to be a digital fellow for Phil Weiser for Colorado and a video intern at Professional Storytelling. These two varied opportunities allowed me to practice my video and cinematography skills, editing skills, and gain digital communication experience. For Phil Weiser's campaign for governor, I had the opportunity to edit videos for his social media multiple days a week in his campaign office and film many of his events, forums, and debates, including his announcement that he won the primary campaign in June. For Professional Storytelling, a creative marketing agency, I assisted in shoots across Denver and the Front Range, including at a spa, a restaurant, an interior design company, the Monday Night Football studio, and a women's health-focused organization. At each event, I captured video and photo footage, and edited short videos to be posted on each organization or company's social media. I loved getting to creatively record so many different experiences and events, edit short-form videos, and I am excited to continue to use the skills I gained during these two internships!

14: Kroll, Transfer Pricing New York, New York

Student Intern: Finn Donahue '27

Major: Mathematical Economics and Music

What initially drew me to economics was its ability to provide intuitive frameworks for understanding complex decisions, markets, and outcomes. My coursework at CC strengthened my analytical and quantitative skills while teaching me to approach problems from both mathematical and economic perspectives. As a transfer pricing summer analyst, I applied these skills and used economic concepts and intuition to contribute to international pricing analyses. This experience showed me how concepts I had studied in the classroom could be applied to complex, real-world business decisions. I particularly enjoyed learning quickly, working through challenging problems, and translating

quantitative analysis into practical insights. As a result of my internship, I am especially interested in opportunities at the intersection of economics, data, and analytical problem-solving, where I can use these skills to help organizations make informed and effective decisions.

15: Grossmont Orthopedics & Golden Years in San Diego, CA

Student Intern: Kamran DuBois '24

Major: Mathematical Economics

This summer I put together my own self-led internship in the medical and home-care field. I started off by taking an online course on the legal side of medicine (QME) and passed the certification test, which gave me a solid foundation for everything that came after. From there, I helped design a laser therapy website for Grossmont Orthopedics in San Diego, and spent a lot of the summer shadowing my dad, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in shoulders, watching him meet with patients, figure out what they needed, and map out the best treatment plans for them. Through that experience, I also got to connect with some really inspiring people in the industry, including David Blue and Sean Churchill from cultivateMD, and Mike Mogul, former CEO of Stryker who's now in venture capital. Midway through the summer, I started applying what I'd learned by working for Golden Years San Diego, helping elderly patients with daily living, companionship, and housekeeping. That taught me skills in patience, empathy, and care that I know I will carry with me long after this past summer.

16: KRCC in Colorado Springs, CO

Student Intern: Aeva Dye '27

Major: Political Science, Minors: Journalism, Italian

As a news intern at KRCC, I learned to report and produce for digital and radio formats. KRCC is a division of Colorado Public Radio; both provide local and national news to Coloradans. Over the course of the summer I learned to work in a newsroom as I wrote, researched, edited and produced the news. I started out small, writing short pieces for on-air hosts to read. By the end of the summer I had written countless articles and produced several full-length radio features. I learned to use audio equipment and software. I conducted interviews over the phone and in the field. In addition to my full-length features, two moments stand out. I was initially assigned to cover the Aspen Acres fire, which grew from 50 acres to 3,000 in the four hours I provided live coverage. It eventually grew to become Colorado's 7th-largest fire ever. Along with my co-intern, I also provided live coverage on election primary night while we ran CPR's live blog. In addition to reporting experience, I networked and made connections across CPR and the reporting world broadly. This internship has me excited and confident to pursue a career in journalism.

17: The Camp4 Collective in Salt Lake City, UT

Student Intern: Liam Cardenas Ferguson '27

Major: Film and Media Studies, Minors: Environmental Studies, Journalism, and AIMES

From May to August of 2026, I had the opportunity to intern with the Camp4 Collective, a respected filmmaking agency based out of Salt Lake City. In my time with the Camp4 Collective, I grew my technical and interpersonal skills in each step of the filmmaking process: I was tasked with helping plan out commercial and documentary shoots, had the opportunity to be on the camera as both an assistant and director for large name brands, and worked heavily in post-production, improving my editing and distribution skills every single day. I found myself in the company of some of the industry's behemoth filmmakers, meeting and working alongside some of the people I had looked up to for years: whether I was a personal assistant for car commercials in the mountains or assistant camera for documenting descents of seldom-skied couloirs, this internship pushed me to grow my network and skills every moment. Moreover, I was in charge of directing my own film, which I centered around the environmental devastation occurring in the Western United States, using pottery as a way to promote change and give ode to the land in which we all live.

18: Sherpa Adventure Gear in Denver, CO

Student Intern: Sina Fallahi '28

Major: Economics

During my internship with the Head of Sales for Sherpa Adventure Gear, I gained valuable firsthand experience in the outdoor industry while learning more about the sales side of the business. Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity to learn from her experience and gain a better understanding of how relationships, communication, and

strategy contribute to successful sales. One of the most valuable experiences was attending the GOA Connect trade show, where I was able to see the outdoor industry firsthand, meet professionals from a wide range of brands, and better understand how relationships are built and maintained within the industry. I also had the opportunity to learn more about the day-to-day responsibilities involved in sales and how outdoor brands work to build relationships with retailers and grow their businesses. Throughout the internship, I received consistent guidance and feedback while being encouraged to ask questions and learn through real experiences. Overall, this internship strengthened my interest in the outdoor industry and gave me valuable insight into sales, professional relationship-building, and the business side of the industry.

19: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston MA

Student Intern: Charlie Flint '27

Major: Chemistry

Gout and psoriatic arthritis are chronic inflammatory diseases that require effective treatment strategies and efficient patient-centered care. During my summer research experience in the Department of Clinical Sciences, Rheumatology and Immunology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, I worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator on two clinical trials to improve rheumatologic care. The first trial compared two approaches to gout treatment, treating to reduce serum urate levels and treating to avoid flare symptoms. Participants were randomized into two treatment arms, one receiving urate lowering therapies (ULT), and the other receiving anti-inflammatories. My responsibilities included prescreening and recruiting eligible patients, confirming a diagnosis of gout while ensuring that disease severity was appropriate for randomization. The second trial focused on psoriatic arthritis and evaluated whether a patient-reported outcome app could improve the efficiency of rheumatology and dermatology care. The app helped tailor visit frequency to symptom severity, allowing patients with more severe symptoms to be seen more frequently while reducing unnecessary visits for patients with stable disease. In addition to my clinical research responsibilities, I wrote a review paper examining the emerging relationship between GLP-1 medications and gout exploring the mechanisms behind the biphasic effect seen of increased gout incidence following GLP-1 initiation and the potential long-term benefits of these medications on gout outcomes.

20: Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS), Belgrade, Serbia

Student Intern: Emmit Gaul '28

Major: Mathematical Economics; Political Science Minor

During the summer of 2026, I interned with the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) in Belgrade, Serbia. CANVAS works with activists and movements around the world to help them use strategic nonviolent action. My main responsibility was monitoring protests, civil resistance movements, and political developments across Latin America, South and Central Asia, and Oceania. I researched news and local sources, verified information, and wrote concise daily and weekly reports that helped the organization track how movements developed and responded to repression. I also helped draft social media posts and reviewed CANVAS training materials on movement strategy, communication, and organizing. Living and working in Belgrade gave me a firsthand view of an international nonprofit and showed me how research, political analysis, and clear communication can support people pursuing democratic change. The experience strengthened my ability to evaluate sources, write under deadlines, and understand political events from perspectives outside the United States

21: Achieve Law Group (ALG) in Denver, Colorado

Student Intern: Landon Hartman '27

Major: Science, Technology, and Society Studies Major - Statistical Mathematics and Philosophy Concentrations

I worked in a hybrid legal research position at Achieve Law Group in Denver. This was a boutique law firm run by two partners—one of whom, Jerome DeHerrera is a Colorado College alumni and a Stanford Law Graduate. The firm did general practice for various nonprofits and private individuals in the Denver Area. I worked on a wide range of cases including a museum build in Denver, the Denver city and county residential zoning codes, and the original intent of the founder of the Sangre De Cristo communal land grant in Southwestern Colorado. For the museum build, I researched IRS treatment of donor-advised fund contributions for the proposed contribution of a \$40 million to the construction of a public nonprofit-managed museum. With Denver's zoning code, in particular, I needed to find the definition of what constituted a residential vs. commercial building in Denver's downtown golden triangle; the answer: residential buildings must have a kitchen, and a kitchen is defined as a room with a cooking appliance in it. On the

pro-bono land grant case, I visited the community of San Louis to meet with community members affected by the privatization of their communal land grant; I was able to clarify the original intent of the first title holder of the Sangre De Cristo Land Grant from examination of Mexican legal documents from the 1840s. In all, it really was an exciting, eclectic collection of experiences, and overall, I greatly enjoyed this summer foray into the legal field!

22: LiveWell Capital in Denver, CO

Student Intern: Kjetil Hassman '27

Major: Political Science

This summer, I had the pleasure of working as an intern analyst at LiveWell Capital Denver, gaining experience at a nationally recognized wealth management firm managing ~ \$6 billion in assets. I supported three lead advisors, two portfolio managers, three service advisors, and my boss with numerous investment and operational responsibilities. My work included processing account distributions and transfers, analyzing client data and tax strategies, building spreadsheets, presentations, and personal financial plans, generating reports and forms, and conducting market and software research. I also presented several of my projects to my team, strengthening my articulation and understanding of the material. One of my major tasks was helping with the merger of Jones Financial into LiveWell Capital, which included analyzing thousands of clients' records and assigning clients to their respective advisory and service teams. Overall, I learned a tremendous amount over the summer, gaining valuable experience in managing real-world financials, real estate, succession and tax planning, lifestyle services, and client relations. It also gave me insights into potential careers in the industry.

23: Hub Youth Cycling in Nashville, TN

Student Intern: Gabriella Havron '28

Major: Chemistry, Minor: Education

This summer I served as an intern for a Nashville-founded cycling organization called Hub Youth Cycling. Hub was created in 2017, and its mission is to create an accessible, year-round cycling community for riders of all ages and skill levels. My primary role was to develop a training curriculum for our young rider's camp: Hub Littles Camp. Our goal for this camp was for it to be completely student-athlete led; thus, the training I developed was geared towards camp counselors ages 14-18. Working closely with my boss and advisor, I developed three coaching videos centered around upholding Hub's mission as a student leader, rules and camp flow, and general first aid (not meant to serve as a first aid substitute). Each video has a 10-question test to demonstrate learning. I also developed a coach's handbook, which contains camp curriculum, first aid pack guide, and camp rules. Aside from coaching development, I also served as a spokesperson for Hub, co-hosting a podcast with one of our team sponsors, along with a coach for practices and races.

24: Justine Rob Interiors in Mill Valley, CA

Student Intern: Lucy Hexamer '27

Major: Design Studies

This summer, I had the opportunity to work alongside interior designer Justine Rob. Because Justine runs her business independently, I was able to help with many aspects of the design process and gain valuable hands-on experience. Throughout the summer, I accompanied her to client homes, helped design interior spaces, and worked alongside contractors to bring projects to life. It was inspiring to see how creatively she could reimagine a space while successfully executing each client's vision.

In addition to assisting with client projects, Justine trusted me with projects of my own, allowing me to take them from concept to completion. Having the opportunity to contribute creatively while receiving guidance from such a supportive and encouraging mentor helped me build confidence in my design abilities and gave me a realistic understanding of what it's like to work as an interior designer. Overall, this internship solidified my passion for interior design and gave me valuable hands-on experience that I will carry with me as I continue my education and pursue a career in the field!

25: Caring for Colorado, Denver, CO**Colorado College Public Interest Program****Student Intern:** Gabby Hooper '27**Major:** Sociology, Minors: Philosophy and Religion, Culture, Power

This summer, I worked for Caring for Colorado through Colorado College's Public Interest Fellowship. Caring for Colorado is a foundation that works to support the health and well-being of Colorado adolescents through funding programs, organizations, and systems. As a part of my fellowship, I led research projects on youth voice best practices and strategies for future engagement. To understand how Caring for Colorado could better support youth voice efforts at organizations they currently fund, I designed, conducted, and analyzed surveys and interviews of grantees and young people. I also developed and presented recommendations on how Caring for Colorado can further incorporate youth voice into its own work understanding youth needs and distributing funds. Throughout the summer, I also had opportunities to travel, including to Pueblo where I learned about Caring for Colorado's place-based work and to Yuma, CO where I attended Rural Philanthropy Days.

26: Springs Magazine and Fun Apple Podcast, Colorado Springs, Colorado**Student Intern:** Bella Houck '27**Major:** Film and Media Studies; Journalism Minor

During my summer internship with Springs Magazine and my freelance production work for the Fun Apple podcast, I gained hands-on experience creating community-focused multimedia stories from initial pitch through publication. For Springs Magazine, I researched, reported and wrote four stories highlighting Colorado Springs businesses, people and local culture, including features on thrifting, matcha, a romance bookstore and the growing popularity of mahjong. I interviewed community members and business owners, collaborated with editors through multiple rounds of revisions and created reels and other social media content to accompany my reporting. As the producer and editor of Fun Apple, I edited and produced two full-length podcast episodes, strengthening my skills in audio storytelling, narrative structure and professional collaboration. Across these projects, I learned to adapt stories for written, visual, social and audio formats while balancing creative ideas with deadlines and editorial expectations. These experiences strengthened my interviewing, reporting, editing and multimedia production skills while helping me build a more diverse professional portfolio.

27: Pure Distilling in Colorado Springs, CO**Student Intern:** Devin Hunsinger '27**Major:** Studio Art, Minor: Environmental Studies

This summer I worked as a sales and marketing intern for a fast-growing craft distillery, performing a range of responsibilities. My main responsibility was designing stickers, labels, and wearable merchandise for Pure Distilling's different spirits and brand collaborations. Notably, I designed t-shirts for our collaboration with Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC. Other marketing responsibilities I performed included designing social media graphics, capturing social media content, and designing and hand-lettering signs for the tasting room and different events. I also worked weekly events and farmers markets, offering tastings and selling bottles, making over \$4000 in sales over the course of the summer and finishing as the highest-selling intern at the company. In addition to my sales and marketing tasks, I bottled, labeled, and packaged hundreds of cases of spirits, hosted weekly trivia nights at the tasting room, and assisted with organization and cleaning duties in the distillery and tasting room space. I learned a lot about the food and beverage industry, sales, and marketing, and I loved being a part of a small business as they hope to grow and expand.

28: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA**Student Intern:** Jens Kasten '28**Major:** Neuroscience

During my summer internship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital, I worked with Dr. Chenxi Qiu on research investigating molecular mechanisms relevant to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. My experience gave me exposure to multiple stages of neuroscience research, from animal behavior and brain tissue collection to molecular and cellular experiments. In the laboratory, I worked with HEK293FT cell culture, transfection, protein expression, and Western blotting while studying the oligomerization of proteins produced from retained intron peptides. I also gained experience with the broader experimental process, including

animal behavioral testing, brain sampling, and techniques used to introduce experimental constructs in animal models. Seeing these different stages allowed me to better understand how researchers connect changes at the molecular and cellular level with neurological function and behavior. Beyond developing technical laboratory skills, the internship introduced me to the collaborative environment of a large academic medical center and strengthened my interest in neuroscience, neurological disease, and biomedical research.

29: Juneau Icefield Research Program, Juneau Icefield, Alaska

Student Intern: Elise Kavalchek '27

Major: Geology

The Juneau Icefield Research Program (JIRP) is one of the few places where gaining intensive field experience as an early-career polar scientist is possible. Throughout the 2-month program, I developed skills in numerous research and field methods, like GPR, GNSS, drone imagery, and digging mass balance pits. In addition to this, technical mountaineering skills, such as crevasse navigation and rescue, ski touring, and use of tools like ice axes, crampons, and heavy backpacks, were required training for any field work on the icefield. Alongside the incredible access to scientific tools and an expansive landscape to explore, the people are a large part of what makes JIRP so special. The wide range of skill sets and backgrounds, combined with the continuous excitement on the icefield allows for thoughtful discussion to occur at any time of the day. I came out of JIRP with an incredible network of scientists, friends, and a newfound confidence in my abilities as a polar scientist.

30: Youth Climate Institute (YCI), Maryland

Student Intern: Sarah KC '29

Major: Neuroscience, Pre-Med Track

During my internship with the Youth Climate Institute (YCI), I supported a growing youth-led climate education and advocacy organization that began in Maryland and has expanded its programming across the United States. As a former participant in YCI's program and a youth climate advocate, I spoke at events and programs about my experiences with youth leadership, climate advocacy, and the impact of environmental education. I also helped develop environmental education lesson plans for children's summer camps, helping create engaging activities for students. In addition, I assisted with outreach and programming involving students, teachers, nonprofit organizations, and legislators, helping strengthen connections between YCI and communities involved in climate education and advocacy. Through these experiences, I further developed skills in public speaking, curriculum development, community outreach, and program coordination while learning how organizations can better engage young people in environmental issues. My internship allowed me to continue the work that first began with my participation in YCI and contribute to expanding opportunities for youth climate education and leadership.

31: Phil Weiser Campaign, Denver, Colorado

Student Intern: Peyton Kifer '28

Major: International Political Economy, Minors: Education, US Gov & Politics

This summer, I interned with Phil Weiser's campaign for Governor of Colorado, working with the political and field teams in Colorado Springs and Denver. Much of my time was spent canvassing, phone banking, and conducting voter outreach. I also worked to organize staff campaign events, including attending Colorado's Democratic Party Dem Fest. Canvassing work also included Democrats Julie Gonzales and Yolanda Avila, which offered insight on how different campaigns approached voters during a primary. Alongside my campaign work, I kept track of questions and observations that evolved throughout the summer. Finally, I interviewed Annie Orloff of Mac Consulting Group, who works as communications director for the Melat Kiros campaign and previously worked on communications for Julie Gonzales. My research compared what I observed from campaign professionals with political and psychological science research. My paper focused on voter behavior and patterns in primary elections, particularly how campaigns target and engage different communities.

32: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Student Intern: Songhyun Kim '27

Major: Biochemistry

This summer, I participated in a Chemical Biology REU at Vanderbilt University, where I investigated how microbial co-cultivation can stimulate the production of antibacterial natural products. My project focused on two soil bacteria,

Pseudomonas putida and *Jiangella alkaliphila*, which were co-cultured to explore whether interactions between the two species could activate otherwise silent biosynthetic pathways. I cultured the bacteria, extracted metabolites using HP-20 resin, and fractionated the co-culture extract using HPLC. I then performed bioactivity assays against *Bacillus spizizenii* to identify fractions with antibacterial activity. To further characterize the active samples, I analyzed LC-MS data and identified metabolites associated with antibacterial activity. Our results showed antibacterial activity from the co-culture and revealed chemical features that could be investigated further as potentially new or unknown metabolites. This experience introduced me to the process of natural product discovery and learned about how bioactivities are analyzed.

33: Connectiverx in New Jersey

Student Intern: Mary-Kate Laibhen '28

Major: Computer Science

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at ConnectiveRx as both a Full-Stack Developer and Product Manager. ConnectiveRx is a healthcare technology company focused on helping patients access and stay on the medications they need. During my internship, I gained experience working on both the technical and product sides of software development. As a Full-Stack Developer, I contributed to developing and improving applications while gaining experience with both front-end and back-end technologies. As a Product Manager, I worked alongside different teams to understand project requirements, organize priorities, and see how ideas move from planning to development. Having the opportunity to experience both roles gave me a better understanding of how engineers, product managers, and other teams collaborate to create technology that meets both user and business needs. Throughout my time at ConnectiveRx, I strengthened my technical, communication, and problem-solving skills. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and everything I learned this summer.

34: Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) in Belgrade, Serbia

Student Intern: Aidan Landers '28

Major: Mathematical Economics, Minor in Comparative Politics

During the summer of 2026, I interned with the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) in Belgrade, Serbia. My work focused primarily on political research and analysis, particularly developments across the Middle East and North Africa. Each week, I researched current political events and produced written briefs that synthesized major developments and considered their broader implications for governance, democracy, and civil society. Working in Belgrade also gave me the opportunity to learn in an international environment and engage with perspectives shaped by Serbia's own political history. The experience strengthened my ability to conduct independent research, evaluate political developments, and communicate complex ideas clearly and concisely. It also allowed me to connect concepts from my coursework in comparative politics and political economy with contemporary events outside the classroom. Overall, the internship deepened my interest in international political research and gave me a clearer understanding of how political analysis can support organizations working on democracy and civic engagement.

35: Equitable Advisors, New York City, NY

Student Intern: Gabriel Levin '27

Major: Mathematical Economics

This summer I had the opportunity to work alongside a financial advisor to improve workflow operations, client interactions, and increase daily productivity. I worked with advisor Kevin Madden, who provides financial advisory services alongside tax and estate planning, to prepare and then guide them through retirement. I used business to business databases to identify target prospective clients at companies with existing client relations and compiled the necessary data for advisors to conduct outreach. I also worked with individual financial information to create succinct informational guides and presentations to aid advisors in educating their clients on pathways and strategies to moderate their risk and exposure to market volatility. Through the breakdown of financial concepts not widely understood by the general population, I further developed my own understanding of tax sheltering, investment strategies, and long-term retirement planning. This experience provided me with invaluable insight into my future career pathways, helping to guide me towards graduate school applications, alongside pursuing career applications in the financial advisory industry.

36: United States House of Representatives in Washington, DC

Student Intern: Lily Ljiljanich '27

Major: Political Science, Minor: History

During my internship with Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) in the U.S. House of Representatives, I gained firsthand experience with the legislative process, constituent services, and the inner workings of the federal government. I conducted policy and legislative research, wrote constituent correspondence, engaged directly with constituents, and gave tours of the U.S. Capitol, strengthening my communication, research, and professional skills. I also attended presentations from lobbyists and heard from expert panelists on current policy issues, gaining a broader understanding of the perspectives and interests that influence policymaking in Washington. Additionally, I had the opportunity to observe Senate and House confirmation proceedings and congressional hearings, providing valuable insight into how elected officials evaluate legislation, nominees, and national issues. Being immersed in Washington, DC allowed me to connect my studies in political science and history with practical experiences in government and public service. This internship deepened my understanding of congressional operations and the responsibilities of representing constituents while giving me a greater appreciation for the complexities of policymaking and democratic institutions.

INTERNSHIP STORYMAP PRESENTATIONS, Session #2 Table 1-Table 33

1: Superior Court Probation Office, Salem, MA

Student Intern: Megan Loverro '29

Major: Political Science

During my time at the Superior court probation office in Essex county I learned so much about what goes on behind the scenes to make a court day go smoothly from the probation side. The probation office works with people that were sentenced to probation when they were either found guilty of a crime or they plead guilty. The offender can also be on probation when they are awaiting trial instead of being held in jail. Superior court is where the more violent crimes like rape, drug trafficking and murder get heard so there could be more conditions of release put on the offender. These conditions of release could be random drug screening, stay away order, and getting their electronics searched. My role consisted of helping the support staff by doing work with different case files. I would mostly be archiving the closed case. When I was done for my task for the day or there was a really interesting case on I would be allowed to go up to court and just watch this allowed me to learn about how all the offices in the courts work together.

2: Northwestern Mutual, Colorado Springs

Student Intern: Emily Lowe '27

Major: Physics and Chemistry Minor

During my internship at Northwestern Mutual, I had the privilege of taking on the role of College Financial Representative, where I learned what it would be like to carry out my own financial planning practice. Northwestern Mutual is a large, mutually owned, corporate financial services and insurance planning company that has been servicing clients since 1857. Under the guidance of experienced financial planners, we developed comprehensive personal and business financial plans to ensure clients have a diverse financial portfolio. In this internship, day to day activities consisted of coming into the office as a professional, attending development meetings, contacting and scheduling clients, building relationships built on trust and expertise, and developing holistic financial plans catered to the specific goals of the individuals I worked with. In this internship I developed valuable skills in financial management for my own monetary goals as well as soft skills associated with working in a professional environment and largely in systematic networking techniques.

3: UW Health Department of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Madison, WI

Student Intern: Gabriela Lues '27

Major: Psychology, Minor in Human Biology and Kinesiology

During my summer internship with the UW Health Department of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, I gained hands-on experience in orthopedic and sports medicine research while working alongside physicians and researchers. I contributed to ongoing research examining the physical and psychological factors that influence injury recovery and return to sport following anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction. My responsibilities included converting

paper-based surveys into electronic data collection instruments using REDCap, organizing research data, creating tables and figure legends for manuscripts, and assisting with obtaining figure permissions for publication. I also observed laboratory testing conducted in the UW athletic training room, where I learned how researchers and clinicians collect biomechanical and injury-related data from athletes. Through regular meetings with the research team, I developed a stronger understanding of the research process, from data collection and management to manuscript preparation and dissemination. This experience strengthened my skills in research, data management, scientific communication, and collaboration while providing valuable insight into the intersection of sports medicine, psychology, and rehabilitation.

4: Benefits in Action in Lakewood, CO

Student Intern: Katherine Marsella '27

Major: Political Science, Minor: Journalism

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with Benefits in Action, a nonprofit dedicated to helping community members navigate public benefit programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. Through application assistance and education efforts, Benefits in Action helps individuals and families put food on the table, access health care, and make ends meet amidst growing economic pressures. My work was enriching through its diversity and entailed client engagement, community outreach, research, and technology development. I connected clients to vital resources, improved data collection, and developed website pages. I researched the impact of eligibility changes from H.R.1 to SNAP and Medicaid and communicated them through educational materials. Additionally, I helped organize fundraising events including our Drag Bingo for Benefits event to further the organization's reach and impact within Colorado communities. I gained experience in data analysis and grant reporting through development of the organization's 2025 Annual Impact Report, highlighting the over 27,000 applications we submitted to public benefit programs. I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to work with an incredible team of people and explore the intersection of nonprofit work and government programs.

5: The New York Center for Law and Justice, New York, NY

Student Intern: Kate McDermott '27

Major: History-Political Science and French

This summer, I had the opportunity to work at the New York Center for Law and Justice, a non-profit organization that provides legal aid services to the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing community of New York City. As an intern, I spent my time preparing case documents, helping clients with bureaucratic tasks, and listening in on depositions and hearings. During meetings, I was tasked with taking detailed notes. In doing so, I greatly improved my reading, writing, and attention to detail—all skills that are incredibly important as a History and Political Science major. In addition to legal services, the Center provides a wide range of social and case management services. I shadowed attorneys and social workers as they accompanied clients to appointments at the New York Human Rights Administration to register for Social Security benefits, cash assistance, and food stamps. As a resident of New York, this experience was incredibly eye-opening for me, as I witnessed the sheer quantity of people who are in need of legal assistance and unable to get it. My experience this summer also helped inform my career aspirations; interning at the New York Center for Law and Justice confirmed my interest in going to law school and pursuing a career in the legal field.

6: Vox Pop Films in Los Angeles, CA

Student Intern: Katie Lockwood '27

Major: Film and Media Studies, Minors: Environmental Science and Journalism

As an intern at Vox Pop Films, I served as "1st Assistant" to producers Guy Mossman and Lisa Hepner, supporting projects across development, production, distribution, and impact strategy. During my time, I focused extensively on their latest project, *Burnt*, which is short film about wildfire photographer Kevin Cooley who tragically came to lose his own home to the Eaton Fire in Altadena. For this project, I provided editorial feedback on several cuts, revised written pitch materials, and helped to engineer a festival submission strategy. I also contributed to the outreach campaign for their Sundance award winning feature *Speak*, where I helped to coordinate screenings across the country, wrote and distributed impact campaign materials, and secured votes for their proposed panel in partnership with Ted-Ed and the National Speech and Debate Association at SXSW EDU, a prestigious education conference. I also developed pitch decks for upcoming commercial shoots, created retroactive call sheets, tracked film expenses, and more. It is so rare that a film internship provides exposure to every aspect of the filmmaking process, and I feel very lucky to have gotten to experience every part of it!

7: Condensed Matter Physics Lab, University of California Santa Cruz, CA

Student Intern: William Michels '27

Major: Physics and Mathematical Economics

This summer I participated in an NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at UC Santa Cruz. I worked in a condensed matter physics lab studying 2D materials, which are only a few atoms thick. My lab focused on a class of 2D materials called transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs), many of which are semiconductors. My day-to-day work involved stacking different 2D materials by hand into a structure called a heterostructure. Think of it like a sandwich, where the bread and each topping are only a couple of atoms thick. I would then scan the TMD with an atomic force microscope (AFM), which measures surface bumps down to a fraction of a nanometer. TMDs contain defects where individual atoms are missing or substituted out, which could one day be used in next-generation computing. In the heterostructures I made, the TMD sits sandwiched under a layer of "bread," so identifying its defects means removing that top layer without damaging what's underneath. Standard methods dissolve it away with chemicals, leaving crumbs and damage behind. My project tested sliding it off sideways instead, producing dramatically cleaner surfaces in about half the time. This experience strengthened my interest in pursuing physics research in graduate school.

8: Center For Applied NonViolent Actions and Strategies (CANVAS) in Belgrade, Serbia

Student Intern: Riley Moore '27

Major: Political Science

This summer I had the opportunity to work at CANVAS's office located in Belgrade, Serbia. CANVAS is a nonprofit organization advocating for nonviolent resistance and supporting prodemocracy activists from over 50 countries. I worked on various tasks alongside the other interns, including conducting research and creating content for CANVAS's newsletter, social media, and university course materials. Another significant element of the internship was assisting in the testing and development of Gene, CANVAS's new AI assistant intended to be used by social movements worldwide. As part of the testing, I got the unique opportunity to engage with conversations activists are currently having with this new tool. Moreover, I got to be involved in CANVAS's work doing contact mapping and strategic planning with their partners, which has given me valuable insight into movement creation and planning. This internship was my first introduction to the nonprofit world, which I hope to continue exploring as I consider my career pathway. Additionally, the experience of living and working in Serbia taught me many life skills, both personal and professional.

9: Mountain Goat Movement in New York City, NY

Student Intern: Lola Musslewhite '27

Major: Sociology

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with Mountain Goat Movement, an outdoor education organization that creates experiential learning opportunities for students and educators through adventure programming. The organization combines outdoor experiences with long-term mentorship from leading explorers and educators to help students develop confidence, curiosity, and resilience. My primary role was as a Marketing Assistant, where I created and scheduled content for Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, and Facebook. I also helped with outreach to schools, nonprofits, outdoor brands, and family foundations by writing pitch emails and creating partnership decks. Beyond marketing, I helped develop a professional development program for educators, working on curriculum and logistics for a future program in California focused on bringing experiential learning into classrooms. I also had the opportunity to work directly with students by helping lead outdoor expeditions. This included a 15-mile trip in the Adirondacks for students completing the Adventurous Journey portion of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, where we summited Mount Marcy, New York's highest peak. Working in a small nonprofit allowed me to take on many different roles and see firsthand the challenges and rewards of nonprofit work. Most importantly, I saw the impact that meaningful outdoor experiences can have on students who may not otherwise have access to them.

10: The Helm Lab, Georgetown University/NASA Earth Science, Washington D.C.

Student Intern: Will Nakahara '27

Major: Environmental Science

This summer I had the opportunity to be a member of The Helm Lab, a lab based out of Georgetown under Rebecca Helm, focused on UN Governance, High Seas Policies, Neustonic Ecology and Evolutionary Marine Molecular Biology. Coming in with a background in environmental science with a concentration in oceanography, I had a solid grasp on

the basics, and also had a lot of room to grow and learn in regards to molecular biology. The block plan has allowed me to enter academic spaces with confidence, knowing I have the ability to learn new material in efficient and effective ways.

Over the course of the summer, I was primarily working on two projects - community outreach on the West Coast and also culturing a species of hydrozoan called Velella Velella. With the community outreach, we hypothesized that Velella Velella blooms in the Pacific are so large and dense that they're able to be seen from NASA satellites. These blooms create a floating ecosystem far away from any land, the only problem was we didn't have the on the ground confirmation of where these blooms were. Hence, the need for community outreach to West Coast charter fishing companies, marinas, and whale watching tours. Culturing Velella Velella was a process that involved cleaning water through filtration, setting up incubators with proper light to enable photosynthesis and tracking growth of their gonads (reproductive gland) over time. During this time we used an application called FIJI to analyze the size of the eggs and sperm, relative to the overall size of the medusae.

11: Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research, Bloomington, IN

Student Intern: Nora Nelson Laird '27

Major: Mathematics

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at the Indiana University School of Education's Center for Postsecondary Research, which has a mission to promote institutional and student excellence through their research on student experiences at postsecondary institutions. I gained valuable experience asking productive research questions, choosing and running statistical tests, and interpreting and communicating results effectively by working with data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE), both run by the center. Over my ten week internship, I worked on four different projects, which included: writing an overview on faculty use of higher order learning activities in coursework using recent FSSE data; using NSSE data to research and write a report on student engagement among math education majors, guided by current research in the field; mocking up a new way for NSSE to deliver results to institutions, based on an institution's goals, in a more digestible way to go alongside NSSE's traditional report; and helping begin the process of setting benchmarks for interpreting effect sizes for FSSE data.

12: University of Colorado Anschutz in Aurora, CO

Student Intern: Eli Paschal Johnson

Major: Organismal Biology and Ecology

Exercise capacity, or VO2 max, correlates more strongly with mortality than any other single measurable factor in the body. Exercise functions as a unique form of medicine, allowing the body to heal itself through interconnected physiological processes. Compared to overweight controls, people with type 2 diabetes (T2D) show a reduced capacity to exercise, and understanding the mechanisms behind this limited skeletal muscle function could inform new treatments. In T2D, impaired skeletal muscle function stems from insufficient oxygen delivery to muscle cells. Neither bulk blood flow through arteries and veins nor isolated muscle mitochondria are significantly impaired in T2D, instead, the deficiency lies in tissue-level oxygen transport from capillaries into the cells. This transport failure is partly driven by excess extracellular matrix, a buildup of structural support tissue beyond healthy levels. Pericytes, specialized cells that regulate this tissue-level transport, become dysfunctional in T2D, impairing oxygen delivery to muscle cells while also promoting further extracellular matrix production. Understanding how pericyte dysfunction contributes to this process offers insight into the broader mechanisms of skeletal muscle impairment in type 2 diabetes.

13: Compañeros & Durango Arts Center in Durango, CO

Student Intern: Katie Patterson '27

Major: Liberal Studies

This summer, I interned at two nonprofits in Durango, Colorado: Compañeros and the Durango Arts Center. Compañeros is a Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center. During my time there, I learned about current Immigration policy, worked on social media posts, helped organize Legal Files, and tutored kids via Compañeros' Escuelita program. At Durango Arts Center, I taught 5-7 year olds Theatre, helped out with older kid productions, and built sets. This summer expanded my understanding of and involvement in the Durango community, a place I call home; it reminded me of the types of work I do and don't enjoy; and it exposed me to the difficulty and joy of teaching vibrant young kids.

14: Nasr Lab, Harvard Institutes of Medicine in Boston, MA**Student Intern:** Trey Penna '27**Major:** Chemistry

This summer, I worked as a research trainee at the Harvard Institutes of Medicine in a nephrology laboratory under Dr. Mahmoud Nasr. Dr. Nasr's research centers on the study and synthesis of nanodiscs, a biological tool used to study membrane proteins in a native-like lipid environment. My day-to-day responsibilities included performing bacterial protein expression in *E. coli* to amplify and purify proteins of interest, as well as making microfluidic PDMS channels for controlled reagent mixing. Through this work, I gained hands on experience with laboratory techniques, from cell culture and protein purification to microfabrication, while learning to troubleshoot experiments and think critically about experimental design. This experience was my first time working in a professional laboratory setting, and it was a major milestone toward my long-term goals for the future, including attending medical school. Beyond the technical skills I learned, the experience deepened my appreciation for the patience and commitment that scientific research demands and reinforced my desire to pursue a career that bridges hands-on work with patient care.

15: Rosario P. G. Montgomery, Ph.D. & TAMRA Learning Academy, Temple, TX**Student Intern:** Kole Petersen '27**Major:** Psychology, Creative Writing & Indigenous Studies minors

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern as a clinical assistant for Dr. Rosario P. G. Montgomery. Dr. Montgomery is a clinical psychologist with over two decades of experience with neurodevelopmentally disabled youth, including those with autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, oppositional defiant disorder, and learning disabilities. In her clinical office, I helped administer various cognitive and diagnostic assessments, including the WIAT-4, WISC-V, and ADOS-2. I also created IEPs for her clients, formalizing academic expectations and encouraging the development of social, adaptive, and executive functioning skills. Additionally, I interned as a summer school teacher at TAMRA Learning Academy, a small, private K-12 school for developmentally and/or learning disabled youth, of which Dr. Montgomery is a co-founder and school psychologist. In this position, I taught upper elementary/middle schoolers writing, reading comprehension, and math. I also oversaw physical education and art classes for all students and conducted parent interviews establishing expectations for the upcoming school year. The integration of TAMRA into Dr. Montgomery's clinical office meshed my clinical and educational responsibilities, simultaneously granting me valuable knowledge and experience in two psychological fields. My internship experiences heightened my desire to pursue a career in neurodevelopmental clinical psychology serving autistic youth.

16: Tennessee Justice Center in Nashville, TN**Student Intern:** Lilly Rauth '27**Major:** Classics, Minor: Environmental Studies

This summer I had the opportunity to intern at the Tennessee Justice Center, a nonprofit law and advocacy organization that has been working to ensure Tennesseans have access to essential healthcare and nutrition programs for over 30 years. As an Anti-Hunger Casework Intern, I worked directly with clients to assist them in accessing SNAP benefits and to ensure eligible individuals maintained access to nutrition assistance programs. I managed individual client cases while also completing research for TJC that will be shared both internally and externally. My research centered on medical exemption forms related to SNAP ABAWD work requirements, with the goal of educating medical practitioners about these forms to better assist qualifying clients. This experience deepened my understanding of the importance of accessible nutrition and healthcare programs and the pervasiveness of these issues within Tennessee communities. I was able to meaningfully develop my client-service and advocacy skills, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn from such passionate advocates and to contribute to the important work of the Tennessee Justice Center.

17: New York University Langone Health, New York**Student Intern:** Charlie Reed '26**Major:** Environmental Science, Pre-PA

Over the summer I took part in the NYU Langone Health Rusk Rehabilitation 2026 Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP): a month-long internship exposing students interested in medicine to a wide array of health professions within NYU Tisch's world renowned hospital network. I was placed in the neurology patient care unit within Kimmel Pavilion, where I followed physicians on rounds within the ICU and inpatient clinic, treating patients suffering from neurologic disorders including ischemic strokes, subdural brain hemorrhage episodes, Guillain-Barre' syndrome, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis. It was within these first two weeks where I first witnessed the quality of direct patient care and the necessity of strong rapport between physician and the patient's family, which was highlighted when dealing with both

gradual and sudden loss of life. During the second half of the internship, I shadowed the neurosurgery unit physician assistant. Being a part of the neurosurgery sector, I witnessed many of the PA's every day surgical procedures such as cerebral spinal fluid shunt placements via burr hole intervention, lumbar punctures, and minimal brain biopsies. Many of the cases within Kimmel Pavilion surround cancer detection, brain hemorrhaging, stroke management, and tumor removal. The most inspiring event of the entire internship was being able to scrub into an intracranial brain tumor removal: a 14-hour long operation where extensive incisions exposed the patients meninge. The operation spanned from 8am until final sutures at 10:30pm, and concluded with the majority of the metastasized tumor removed from the patient's brainstem region!

18: Deeku Education Center, Ban Nai Soi, Thailand

Student Intern: Doe Reh '28

Major: International Political Economics, Philosophy Minor

Burma (Myanmar) has experienced the world's longest-running modern civil conflict, with ethnic minority communities such as the Karenni facing decades of military violence, forced displacement, and political persecution. Beginning in the late twentieth century, intensified junta campaigns pushed tens of thousands of Karenni people across the Thai-Myanmar border for refuge.

As the first ever Karenni-American undergrad returning to the Karenni refugee camps in Thailand for my internship at DEC + KnNC (Karenni National College), it became much more than an opportunity to teach English. During the two-month internship, I developed and taught a GED-level curriculum to 64 students across two colleges, helped organize school events and fundraisers, and created a GoFundMe campaign that raised over \$3,000 to support DEC's basic needs. Although there was a lot of initial uncertainty, including stay restrictions, difficult three-hour treks into camp, and the lack of basic necessities, I remained committed to my students and my community. Beyond these responsibilities, the experience challenged my understanding of development, leadership, and education. The camps continue to face poverty, limited access to basic necessities, educational barriers, and significant psychosocial challenges. Yet, I found that community, relationships, and collective resilience remained central to everyday life. Outside of the accomplishments, the experience fundamentally reminded me to continue advocating for the rights and future of my Karenni people.

19: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, CO

Student Intern: Lia Robinson '27

Major: Organismal Biology and Ecology

My internship at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo focused on the animals in the African Rift Valley area. This area housed a variety of mammals, birds, and reptiles, including African Cape porcupines, Colobus monkeys, and Abyssinian ground hornbills. Throughout the internship, I shadowed keepers to learn species-specific husbandry practices. My primary responsibilities were to prepare daily diets and enrichment, assist with animal training and basic medical procedures, and clean and prep animal enclosures. I also interacted with zoo visitors by teaching them about each animal species and the zoo's conservation efforts, and inviting them to help feed the animals. My internship took place during an AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accreditation period, allowing me to observe the preparation and review process firsthand. I also had the opportunity to learn about Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's vet hospital and conservation program and attend several professional development workshops. The internship introduced me to the zoo world and helped direct my future career goals. It also gave me valuable experience in animal handling, training, and care

20: University of Chicago Neurocritical Care, Chicago, IL

Student Intern: Elliot Rubin '28

Major: Neuroscience

This summer I had the opportunity to observe the Neurological Intensive Care Unit (NeuroICU) at the University of Chicago in Hyde Park. The NeuroICU specializes in round-the-clock care for patients with severe brain, spine, and nervous system disorders. I learned about treatment strategies for traumatic brain injury, stroke, and status epilepticus (a continuous seizure lasting 5+ minutes). I found intracranial pressure (ICP) management particularly insightful and got to observe implantation of external ventricular drains which alleviate ICP by draining cerebrospinal fluid. Unfortunately, many of the patients treated in the NeuroICU do not regain prior neurological functionality, requiring the attending physician to set reasonable expectations and treatment plans for families. Watching physicians handle possibly the worst time of someone's life with such compassion and grace further inspired me to pursue a career in medicine. Alongside shadowing, I spent time categorizing research records for the neurology department. I also joined a research project investigating the clinical efficacy of pregabalin (Lyrica) as an antiseizure medication in

the NeuroICU, something I will continue during the school year. My time in the NeuroICU was both productive and inspiring, and I'm grateful for the team of medical professionals I got to learn from.

21: Lamb Host-Pathogen Interactions Lab, Salt Lake City, Utah

Student Intern: Leah Rubner '27

Major: Molecular Biology, Minor in Global Health

This summer, I worked in the Lamb Host-Pathogen Interactions Lab at the University of Utah. The Lamb Lab focuses on how immune mechanisms drive disease during malaria infection. My work focused on cerebral malaria pathogenesis. Cerebral malaria is a severe and life-threatening complication of parasitic infection that can lead to comas, seizures, and hemorrhaging. Current treatments for cerebral malaria are limited to antiparasitic medications and supportive care. This summer I spent the majority of my time performing cell culture experiments. These experiments evaluated the immune pathways that are induced in brain cells when exposed to Plasmodium parasites. I became adept at cell and parasite culture, as well as the various assays used to quantify immune responses. I also worked with mouse models and microscopy and shadowed infectious disease providers. Working in this environment was both motivating and inspiring, and I hope to continue working at this forefront of curiosity, passion, and hard work.

22: Life Time in Chanhassen, Minnesota

Student Intern: Keala Schubert '27

Major: Environmental Studies, Minor: Human Biology & Kinesiology

Life Time has almost 200 athletic country clubs across the country as well as almost 30 national endurance cycling and running events. Most of my time was focused on facilitating communications for over 90 of our event sponsors and their on-site activations and marketing strategies. I traveled to Emporia, Kansas for the UNBOUND Gravel cycling race in May and The Leadville 100 Trail Run in August to assist with creating the event expos. I also conducted a research project about sustainability initiatives aiming to maximize community impact on our host cities and minimize environmental footprint. Through this research project, I had the opportunity to speak with several employees across different functions of the company who helped me better understand how Life Time Athletic Events function and where there are opportunities to expand or start sustainability initiatives. Over the course of this internship I have learned about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into putting together athletic events of large scale and the importance of making each event unique, sustainable, and a memorable experience for athletes and spectators alike.

23: Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Student Intern: Owen Shi 2027

Major: Mathematics and Human Biology and Kinesiology

This past summer, I interned with Boston College's Olympic Strength and Conditioning department. I assisted with 7 Division 1 programs and 2 professional hockey players. On the weight room floor, I provided specific exercise technique cues, spotted athletes, and held athletes accountable to the coaches' goals. In addition, we participated in weekly education sessions and presentations on speed development, change of direction, agility, conditioning, strength, power, hypertrophy, exercise technique, exercise selection, and programming. This culminated in creating a 16-week full offseason program for an assigned team. Another responsibility was collecting data on Hawkins force plates and Perch Velocity-based training. I learned how to use objective data to inform prescribed intensity, exercise selection, and individualize training. This internship allowed me to work in an extremely prestigious academic and athletic environment, gaining work experience in strength and conditioning and developing professional skills.

24: Breakthrough in Santa Fe, NM

Student Intern: Connor Skinner '28

Major: Education and Creative Writing

Breakthrough is a college access organization dedicated to supporting socioeconomically disadvantaged students, with Breakthrough Santa Fe being one of 25 locations scattered across the nation. New Mexico consistently ranks among the lowest states in education outcomes, and Breakthrough Santa Fe's mission is to challenge narratives about what students can achieve, despite extrinsic and intrinsic beliefs about students' efficacy. Breakthrough Santa Fe recruits a diverse cohort of teaching fellows who are all equipped with different skill sets and life experiences. Teaching Fellows dedicate 70 hours of their week to ensuring that every component of Breakthrough's traditions is upheld and executed. On top of designing lesson plans, Teaching Fellows are tasked with planning major summer events, such as career day, art day, and college day. Breakthrough Teaching Fellows work alongside directors and instructional

coaches to make sure each lesson is academically rigorous and engaging. Teaching Fellows dedicate their summers to cultivating close bonds with students, developing effective lesson plans, and safeguarding the many traditions that make Breakthrough such a special place for the students it serves.

25: Honestly in Oklahoma City, OK

Student Intern: Sabrina Smith '29

Major: Biochemistry

Honestly is the backbone nonprofit of the Central Oklahoma Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaboration, and I had the honor of interning with them this summer. Under the supervision of their Data and Strategic Learning director, I wrote a data report on the Change Agent Inventory Questionnaire, a survey that Honestly distributed to the Collaboration partners earlier this year. I cleaned, analyzed, visualized, and interpreted the questionnaire results, giving the organization insight into the identities and skills of their partners. For my second project, I created an advocacy plan to install a policy that would allow Honestly to place printed referral materials in public high school classrooms. The Advocacy Committee plans to execute this plan in the next couple of academic years. My last major project was a collaboration with SIECUS, a national organization that advocates for comprehensive sex education. With their guidance, I wrote an op-ed that makes the case for sex education in Oklahoma. SIECUS will be pitching it to publishers later this year. This experience has reaffirmed my love for public health and my passion for reproductive justice, in addition to equipping me to be a better student of health and medicine.

26: Iowa Center for Economic Success, Des Moines, Iowa

Student Intern: Saw Sow '28

Major: Business, Economics, and Society

During my summer internship at the Iowa Center for Economic Success, I worked as the finance and administrative intern. The Iowa Center leads the statewide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Through the Iowa Center, I gained valuable insights into tax laws within the state of Iowa. Part of my internship was to help facilitate the program between tax volunteers and low to moderate-income individuals to get their taxes prepared. On the finance side, I was able to help with Amortization through Excel, which will help the Iowa Center calculate future growth and cash availability. The Iowa Center further provides credit and lending to small businesses in Iowa. For my work at the Iowa Center, I utilized Salesforce to track which industry their loans are in. Through this, I was able to develop an industry report that the Iowa Center can utilize to provide to clients and donors. This internship gave me freedom, freedom that has improved my ability to take initiative, build relationships, and do research.

27: Café Con Libros in Brooklyn, NY

Student Intern: Raychel Stark '27

Major: History-Philosophy, Minor: Creative Writing

This summer, I interned as the events coordinator at Café Con Libros, an intersectional Feminist community bookstore and coffee shop located in Brooklyn. Café Con Libros has a robust, intentional events program that focuses on both burgeoning and established authors. I helped continue to build the store's events program with precision, intention, and meaning. I monitored and managed event grids and social media trends, including identification, submission, and tracking of event requests. In concert with publishers, authors, community members, and staff, I curated events by identifying dates and event spaces, executing contracts, designing social media graphics, providing marketing materials in a timely manner, ordering books, and tracking their delivery. I attended these events in person and met with authors, publicists, editors, and publishers. I proposed and requested author book launches. I met with off-site venues, other bookstores, non-profit organizations, and small businesses on potential partnerships. In the bookstore, I received and processed book orders and maintained administrative documents. I hope my experience will support me post-grad as I pursue a career in the publishing industry.

28: Select Physical Therapy in Northglenn, CO

Student Intern: Francesca Thornton '28

Major: Molecular Biology/Human Biology and Kinesiology

This summer I had the opportunity to work under Physical Therapist and Assistant Center Manager, Maggie Ruwitch at Select Physical Therapy in Northglenn, Colorado. By shadowing her mix of travel and regular staff physical therapists,

I was able to see every aspect of what goes into working as a Doctor of Physical Therapy, including clinical care, administrative work, insurance, and billing. I learned about the deciding factors it takes to be a travel physical therapist versus a regular staff physical therapist. I gained new knowledge about different areas that Physical Therapists specialize in such as geriatrics, sports, vestibular, etc. Along with this new information and previous knowledge of anatomy and pathology, I was able to apply my skills to real life treatment for patients. Through creating treatment plans, I practiced being adaptable, thorough, and creative. During my internship, I witnessed a variety of injuries and disorders that deepened my understanding of the importance that physical movement brings to a person's wellbeing. Overall, my biggest takeaway is that being a Physical Therapist is much more than just treating injuries, but is a way to serve your community by caring and investing in others.

29: Project C.U.R.E., Centennial, Colorado

Student Intern: Alyssa Tunggal '27

Major: Neuroscience

This past summer, I got the opportunity to work with the Kits Program Director at Project CURE. Project CURE is a nonprofit organization that takes donated medical equipment and sends it to resource-limited countries outside of the US. Through the Kits program at Project CURE, corporations and other organizations can collaborate with their colleagues and peers to pack kits, often for corporate social responsibility events. With my position at Project CURE, I helped oversee the process of packing these different kits, as well as preparing for corporate events. This included training new volunteers and ensuring that all supplies were ordered and delivered on time. One of the most impactful tasks I had was to track the kits as they were shipped out on containers. I put together reports showing any available statistics from the events, while also highlighting each country and the clinics or hospitals that received the supplies, showing the direct impact of the volunteers' work. This experience was truly eye-opening for me, especially in the field of global health. Through reading needs assessments, I gained new perspectives of what healthcare looks like globally, which helped me understand the importance of using our privilege to give to struggling communities, regardless of the circumstances.

30: Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative and Environment Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Student Intern: Molly Vance '27

Majors: Mathematics and Environmental Studies

I spent this summer working with two organizations based in Minnesota, Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative (PPGC) and Environment Minnesota. At PPGC, I gained insight into a start-up organization where I was able to work on a multitude of projects. The co-op is building the market for Kernza, the only perennial grain currently available to consumers. I began my internship by developing our email campaign using the CRM. It will be sent out to prospective consumers from breweries, restaurants, and bakeries to large corporations. Biweekly, I met with our partners at the University of Minnesota through the Forever Green office's SME program. They provided guidance throughout our email campaign and provided us with meaningful resources to expand our outreach to potential customers. I was able to visit their office and the experimental fields of Kernza at the University. Finally, I created a pricing guide that aided the decision-making process of the cost of our products. I am continuing work with them remotely this fall where I will develop the grower database that will serve as important quantitative information for the future of the co-op. I spent the other half of my days with Environment Minnesota, a sector of The Public Interest Network. I experienced working for a much larger organization with offices across the country. My work focused on wildlife crossings. I created two maps using GIS and published two articles on crossings in MN. I enjoyed researching this topic by learning from professionals. I was supported by my supervisor in MN as well as the Denver-based director of Wildlife Campaigns. I am very grateful for the knowledge and hands-on experience at both PPGC and Environment Minnesota this summer.

31: Denver DA's Office, Denver, CO

Student Intern: Rachel Weissman '27

Major: English, Minors: History and Journalism

At the Denver DA's office, my largest responsibility was to complete discovery reviews for 7-18 cases every week. This entails reviewing all video and photographic evidence along with statements provided for the case, and ensuring nothing is missing. The evidence would vary from 100 to over 2,000 pages. If I found items missing, I would notify the investigator and they would contact the detective to obtain whatever is missing. The office is also testing out an AI program to take over discovery reviews, but it is in very early stages. I would test the program while completing my reviews normally, compare the results, and provide data to improve the program. Daily, I would create and file "brady reports" which alert the defense of any misconduct amongst the arresting officers. I would also alert the DAs

of any pre-trail motions and updates frequently. Along with my everyday responsibilities, throughout the summer, all the interns were working on an outreach project intended for high school students to talk about the DA's office, about what we do, and why it is important.

32: DRUM (Desis Rising Up and Moving), New York City, NY

Student Intern: Zara Zafar '27

Major: Political Science, Major: Asian Studies Minor

Zara spent 10 weeks as a Pakistani Community Organizing Intern at the DRUM Midwood Base in New York City. During her internship, Zara immersed herself in grassroots base-building within local Pakistani communities. Conducting frequent outreach, she engaged residents on pressing neighborhood issues, tracked new member recruitment, and facilitated leadership onboarding to deepen community participation in local advocacy. Zara managed critical operational and administrative infrastructure, coordinating agendas, logistics, and official records separately for base-membership meetings and multi-group coalition assemblies.

Beyond internal governance, Zara engaged local institutions and leaders to exchange critical information regarding public policy and community dynamics. In the field, she mobilized working-class voters during the New York primaries for DSA-endorsed candidates through extensive door-knocking, phone banks, and poll-site monitoring. Demonstrating a strong commitment to youth empowerment and community defense, Zara organized a dedicated youth event at a local cafe, led anti-ICE rapid response trainings, and provided simultaneous interpretation to ensure inclusive access. Through this role, Zara bridged direct field organizing, institutional engagement, and multilingual community education to build sustainable grassroots power.

33: Northwestern Mutual

Student Intern: Bodie Wulf '29

Major: Business, Economics, & Society

34: Vox Pop Films

Student Intern: Reed Haymons '27

Major: Film and Media Studies

35: Coalition For Rainforest Nations in New York

Student Intern: Ben Laschever '27

Major: Film and Environmental Studies

This summer I had the pleasure of being the media intern at CfRN, a non-profit that collaborates with over 50 countries to combine rainforest conservation with economic growth. I spent some days coordinating campaigns to onboard Gen-Z donors, others filming TikToks in Washington Square Park, and even filming a branded documentary for CfRN in Honduras. Each day brought on a set of new challenges, many of which were born out of the fact that it is quite difficult to schedule a Zoom call with a team that resides all over the world. The highlight of the experience was during my last week on the job, when CfRN sent me to Honduras to capture their mission firsthand. I met the most incredible people, sitting in on meetings with environmental ministers and interviewing technical teams. I took a solo hike through the clouds, just me and my camera! Through it all, I learned so much about the inner workings of NGOs, the importance of collaboration, and the risks and rewards that come with creative freedom. I could not be more grateful for this opportunity and to CC for making it possible.

INTERNSHIP SUMMARIES, NON-PRESENTING

Exponential Impact and Lady Fatima Center, Denver/Colorado Springs, CO

Student Intern: Yumna Ali '27

Major: Business, Economics, and Society (BESoc); Minor: in Arabic Studies

This summer marked my second year with both the Lady Fatima Center and Exponential Impact (XI), allowing me to build on the foundations I established last summer and step into more strategic responsibilities at each organization. At the Lady Fatima Center, I led membership strategy and engagement initiatives, managed the Square membership platform, assisted in managing the 80+ member database, and took the lead in creating year-end donation receipts for members and donors. This shifted me from a more hands-on financial role into one directly helping shape organizational strategy. With XI, I moved beyond administrative support into strategizing and operationalizing the late loan management process for the Survive & Thrive lending program, which helped establish both new and creative frameworks/processes for the organization to build on long-term. Together, these experiences deepened my understanding of nonprofit finance and entrepreneurial ecosystems while strengthening my analytical and community-engagement skills!

Senator Matt Claman Gubernatorial Campaign and Legislative Office, Anchorage, Alaska

Student Intern: Santiago Bajwa '28

Major: Political Science

This summer, I worked alongside Alaska State Senator and Colorado College alumnus (Class of '81) Matt Claman. Since his announcement in January 2026, Senator Claman was running as a Democratic candidate for governor ahead of Alaska's August 18th primary. Alaska uses ranked-choice voting, where the top four finishers advance to the general election regardless of party affiliation. With seventeen candidates in the race, several realistic contenders, Senator Claman and his campaign chose to withdraw despite a strong campaign and long legislative tenure. Since my mentor was also a sitting state senator, I transitioned into his legislative office rather than end my internship early. The shift in work was significant: opposition research, phone banking, and polling gave way to legislative drafting and research – a formal environment I preferred to campaigning. My main project was a legacy report on Senator Claman's role in introducing Crisis Now, a model offering an alternative to arrest for people in acute mental health crises. I also contributed to a legislative briefing on electronic shelf labels in Alaska grocery stores, examining options ranging from increased monitoring to an outright ban to protect consumers from potential price manipulation by large retailers.

Neuroscience Colorado Research Experience (N-CORE) at University of Colorado Anschutz in Denver, Colorado

Student Intern: Fatima Barry '28

Major: Neuroscience

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to conduct research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in the Department of Anesthesiology. My research focused on neonatal hypoxic ischemic brain injury and how ischemia affects microglia, the resident immune cells of the central nervous system, and their interaction with the complement protein C1q. Specifically, I studied and assessed changes in microglial expression and C1q-Iba1 colocalization within the CA1 region of the hippocampus following cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CA/CPR). Throughout the summer, I gained hands on experience with immunohistochemistry, microtome sectioning, confocal microscopy, FIJI, and IMARIS to stain, image, quantify, and visualize C1q and Iba1 expression. My analysis showed increased microglial expression following neonatal ischemia while overall C1q expression remained unchanged. I also found changes in C1q-Iba1 colocalization, suggesting that ischemia may alter microglial-complement signaling and potentially contribute to excessive synaptic pruning and later cognitive deficits. In addition to developing my laboratory and results analysis skills, this experience gave me exposure to biomedical research and allowed me to learn more about careers involving PhD and MD/PhD training. Beyond the research, I also built meaningful relationships with members of my cohort, mentors, and others across campus, forming lifelong friendships and professional connections that made my summer experience even more impactful.

49 Financial, Houston, TX**Student Intern:** Nick Brashear, '29**Major:** Economics

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern with 49 Financial in their Houston, Texas office, where I gained firsthand insight into the financial advising industry and the entrepreneurial nature of the business. I attended weekly team meetings, where advisors reviewed their clients' progress, new introductions, and recently completed client relationships. I also sat in on introductory meetings with prospective clients and learned how advisors develop financial plans around each client's individual goals, including retirement, family, and tax planning. Another major part of my experience was learning about the sales process, particularly how advisors approach both cold and warm leads. I attended 49 Financial's third-quarter meeting, where I learned how the firm uses the Dave Ramsey program to generate prospective clients and evaluates which markets are producing successful relationships. Beyond financial literacy, I gained a valuable understanding of how a successful business operates. 49 Financial's culture combined strong accountability with a relaxed, welcoming environment that made me feel like part of the team. Overall, the experience strengthened my interest in financial advising while teaching me valuable lessons about entrepreneurship, leadership, and workplace culture.

LSKD in San Francisco, CA**Student Intern:** Brooke Brilliant '27**Major:** Business, Economics, and Society

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with LSKD, an Australian activewear company expanding into the United States. Throughout my internship, I gained hands-on experience working closely with the marketing department, assisting with public relations, gifting products to social media creators and college athletes, developing campaigns, and managing the student-athlete program. I also attended biweekly meetings focused on marketing metrics, including best sellers, KPIs, and budgeting, which gave me the confidence to speak up about market gaps and contribute a fresh perspective. My time at LSKD taught me the importance of developing discernment and recognizing opportunities that can contribute to the overall growth of a company. I especially enjoyed comparing the Australian and U.S. markets and seeing how differences in consumer behavior influence marketing strategies. My favorite part of the internship was attending the CrossFit Games in San Jose, California, where my team and I collaborated on a pop-up event that introduced first-time consumers to the brand and products while supporting LSKD-sponsored athletes. Overall, this experience strengthened my understanding of marketing, consumer behavior, and the importance of adapting strategies to different markets.

Matt Claman for Governor/Alaska State Legislature, Anchorage, AK**Student Intern:** Liv Bross '2028**Major:** Political Science, Minor: Philosophy

During my time working with Matt Claman, I supported both his gubernatorial campaign and his work in the Alaska State Senate through a variety of communications, research, and policy projects. On the campaign, I drafted Official Election Pamphlet (OEP) biographical and personal statements for the gubernatorial and lieutenant governor candidates, researched policy issues and voter priorities to support campaign messaging, and assisted with voter outreach through phone banking, text banking, and other digital communications. I also created social media posts and captions for the campaign's online platforms while collaborating remotely with staff and volunteers to support communications and organizing efforts. As a State Senate intern, I completed legislative ethics training and conducted research and writing projects related to the work of Senator Claman's office. I prepared written reports and memoranda examining the legislative history of marriage-related legislation previously introduced by Representative and Senator Claman, including legislation concerning marriage solemnization, witness requirements, and child marriage. I also researched and developed proposals for potential legislation that could be introduced during the 35th Alaska State Legislature in 2027. In addition, I assisted with e-newsletters, written news, and constituent communications prepared by the Claman office during the summer. This included writing an electronic newsletter discussing Alaska Ballot Measure No. 1 and related election information, as well as proofreading and editing office communications. Throughout the internship, I participated in regular remote meetings with Senator Claman and his staff and received feedback and evaluations on my work. These experiences strengthened my legislative research, policy analysis, writing, editing, and strategic communications skills while providing firsthand insight into both campaign operations and the legislative process.

**United States Southern District Court of New York, New York City, NY
& Colorado Children's Alliance, Denver Colorado (remote)**

Student Intern: Emilia Calamari, 2028

Major: Anthropology major and Political Science minor

This summer, I had the privilege of spending time in the United States Southern District Court of New York as a legal intern in the chambers of the Honorable Loretta A. Preska. This internship provided an incredible opportunity to observe federal litigation firsthand, attend hearings and settlement conferences, and gain a deeper appreciation for the role of the judiciary in our legal system. On a daily basis, myself and three other 1L legal interns would observe the Hon. Judge Preska on the bench in a variety of case types including white collar, criminal, civil, parole violations, and plea changes. When we weren't in Judge Preska's court room I would cite check upcoming and pending motions, research and draft motions for dismissal and work on a long-term project partnered with one of the legal interns. In addition to my time spent with Judge Preska's chambers, I conducted a research project for Colorado Children's Alliance's executive director Ashley Jellison. My research examined why children who have experienced abuse or an adverse childhood event in Colorado cannot access the sustained, trauma-informed healthcare they need to heal - and what policy changes can be made to close that gap. I was profoundly educated in the process of writing my policy brief and the paper provided brief but concrete recommendations for Colorado legislators, advocates, and funders. My paper was presented to child advocate lobbyists around Colorado and my recommendations are being hopefully being used during the upcoming legislative session.

PeacePlayers, Chicago, IL

Student Intern: Dylan Crook '27

Major: History-Political Science

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with PeacePlayers, an international non-profit focused on peacebuilding through basketball. During my time with PeacePlayers I worked a daily multi-week program in collaboration with Intentional Sports who are located in the neighborhood of Austin on the Westside of Chicago. The program consisted of boys aged (13-15), we started daily with a period of basketball training, then transitioned into the classroom in the afternoon which focused on life skills and mentorship. I assisted in both portions, leading drills and conversations in the classroom which centering around financial literacy and future planning. In addition to the program I met with the senior leadership of PeacePlayers to discuss their work within an international non-profit, contextualizing the skillsets and characteristics necessary for their roles. Through my experience in Chicago this summer I have gained an immense wealth of perspective by working closely with this group of boys who've had profoundly different life experiences than myself. I am grateful to PeacePlayers for this opportunity and welcoming me into the inner workings of their non-profit's mission.

Legislative Intern for Representative Hannah Bowen, Massachusetts State House

Student Intern: Bella Dane '28

Major: Political Science

This summer, I interned at the Massachusetts State House under Representative Hannah Bowen, State Representative for the 6th Essex District, which includes Beverly and part of Wenham. My primary responsibility was legislative research, through which I produced two policy memos on the Bottle Bill and the North Shore College Initiative. I researched the history and proposed legislation for each issue, identified barriers to passage, and explored potential strategies to overcome them. I also spoke with advocacy groups to better understand their work and shared recommendations for next steps with Representative Bowen. Another project I worked on was analyzing the Governor's FY27 budget and the impacts on the Representative's district. For this, I researched past budgets and calculated the cuts or increases in different areas. Then I developed a presentation to help constituents understand the impacts and where the budget money was actually going in their district. This presentation will be used by the Representative for a community conversation she will hold in the fall. Finally, I assisted constituents by researching issues and connecting them with appropriate local and state resources, and attended weekly legislative briefings, formal sessions, committee hearings, and policy events.

Mobile Arts, Colorado Springs, CO**Student Intern:** Allyson Pena Deniz '27**Major:** Molecular Biology and Spanish

Mobile Arts is an art program that provides accessible art of all forms to communities in Colorado Springs who do not have easy access to art. Through programming such as cyanotype at the Southeast Farmers Market and collaborations with local community organizations such as Latisha Hardy, Misty Mountain Cafe and Inside Out Youth services, to name a few, Mobile Arts brings creativity, passion and community into each space it enters. Mobile Arts operates out of a truck that carries all the art supplies, tables, chair and a stage necessary for each event. The stage is a space used to highlight the voices of members in our communities such as local artists and performers. My most memorable moments from this past summer include face painting at the Southeast Farmers Market, getting the opportunity to lead the social media and our weekly team meetings. Through these moments, I have been able to connect with so many different people and form new relationships. Due to this experience, I have gained new knowledge and skills that I will now carry with me throughout my future career.

Environmental Commodity Partners, Mill Valley, CA**Student Intern:** Grace Ellsworth '27**Major:** Environmental Studies

This summer, I completed a six-week Summer Analyst Internship at Environmental Commodity Partners (ECP), an investment management firm focused on environmental commodities. I worked closely with the firm's three founders and other experienced professionals throughout the program. The internship was structured around five core areas of the business: Investor Relations & Capital Raising, Underwriting and Market Design/Policy Research, Back-Office Fund Operations & Administration, Project Development and International Carbon Markets investing, and Trading. In my first week, I supported Investor Day preparation. I gathered firm metrics and researched investor-aggregation platforms such as Preqin and PitchBook. I then studied ECP's prior California LCFS research as a model. Using it, I built policy and supply/demand primers on the South Korean, Canadian, and British Columbia Clean Fuels markets. In later weeks, I mapped the full trade lifecycle and the firm's third-party service provider ecosystem. I also built a project developer database for ECP's Decarbonization Fund. The program concluded with a capstone presentation, where I shared my findings across all five focus areas with the ECP team.

The Camp4 Collective in Salt Lake City, UT**Student Intern:** Liam Cardenas Ferguson '27**Major:** Film and Media Studies, Minors: Environmental Studies, Journalism, and AIMEs

From May to August of 2026, I had the opportunity to intern with the Camp4 Collective, a respected filmmaking agency based out of Salt Lake City. In my time with the Camp4 Collective, I grew my technical and interpersonal skills in each step of the filmmaking process: I was tasked with helping plan out commercial and documentary shoots, had the opportunity to be on the camera as both an assistant and director for large name brands, and worked heavily in post-production, improving my editing and distribution skills every single day. I found myself in the company of some of the industry's behemoth filmmakers, meeting and working alongside some of the people I had looked up to for years: whether I was a personal assistant for car commercials in the mountains or assistant camera for documenting descents of seldom-skied couloirs, this internship pushed me to grow my network and skills every moment. Moreover, I was in charge of directing my own film, which I centered around the environmental devastation occurring in the Western United States, using pottery as a way to promote change and give ode to the land in which we all live.

CIBC Private Wealth in Chicago, IL**Student Intern:** Dominic Gray '28**Major:** Mathematical Economics

This summer I interned on the sell-side equity research team at CIBC, covering healthcare and consumer names. I worked across a mix of large and mid-cap coverage including ISRG, BSX, MDLN, and CELH, helping build out earnings models, thesis notes, and reports that actually went out to clients. One project I dug into was a guidance cut on BSX, where I worked through a multiple de-rating framework to figure out why the stock was repricing. I also tagged along on a UBS retail consumer tour, getting read throughs on names like Walmart, AutoZone, and Aritzia straight from analysts who cover them closely. Beyond the technical side, the internship pushed me to get faster at turning a lot of

noisy information into something concise and defensible, which coming off the Block Plan actually felt pretty natural. I am grateful to have had this opportunity made possible from the internship funding here at Colorado College.

Maine Audubon, Falmouth, Maine

Student Intern: Dana Heissenbuttel '29

Major: Environmental Science

Piping plovers are an essential part of coastal Maine's summer ecosystem. Migrating from as far south as the Bahamas, Plovers arrive in Maine in late March, to find a mate, nest and raise chicks. Beginning in late July, as soon as their chicks have fledged, the parents will migrate again back south. While their residency in Maine is brief, it is arguably some of the most important times of their lives. Maine Audubon's coastal birds project focuses on protecting piping plover nesting areas on beaches through community outreach as well as extensive dune management, and nest protection on all beaches that these birds will nest on. Chicks are born flightless and for the first thirty days of their life, their only defense is to camouflage. By surveying the beaches these birds inhabit regularly, we are able to keep a close eye on what dangers they regularly face and do our best to mitigate them. While this year numbers soared, with over 300 fledged chicks, the project started in 1980 with only 10 breeding pairs across the entire state. By enforcing dog regulations, fencing off dune habitat, and setting up enclosures to keep predators out, piping plovers are more successful on Maine beaches than they are anywhere else in the world.

Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, Florida

Student Intern: Kate Hill '28

Major: Environmental Science

For three months, I interned at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC) in Juno Beach, Florida, a nonprofit sea turtle research and rehabilitation center, where I gained experience in marine conservation, scientific research, and sea turtle rehabilitation. My research project, Influence of Fishing Interaction Type on Sea Turtle Rescue Outcome, involved analyzing stranding data to identify patterns in successful and unsuccessful rescues. The findings indicated a strong relationship between interaction type and rescue outcome, with turtles hooked in the mouth having the highest number of successful rescues and foul-hooked turtles having the highest number of unsuccessful rescues. Beyond my research, I worked alongside the veterinary and rehabilitation team in LMC's hospital department, gaining insight into the medical treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery of injured and stranded sea turtles. I also expanded my wildlife photography skills, participated in hatchling releases, and developed a broader understanding of the day-to-day work involved in marine conservation. Overall, this experience allowed me to connect scientific research and data analysis with hands-on conservation and animal rehabilitation.

Morton Arboretum, Chicago, IL

Student Intern: Adelaide Judy '28

Major: Molecular Biology

This summer, I spent 10 weeks as an intern in the Morton Arboretum's conservation biology lab for University of Chicago PhD candidate, Ash Hamilton. She combines the study of conservation and evolutionary biology by conducting a multi-year study of population genetics and parentage analysis to map seed dispersal patterns of the endangered Arroyo Oak. Since physical proximity isn't a reliable indicator of parentage, this work uncovers how seeds actually disperse. This can offer key insights into the species' reproductive health and ultimately long-term management. As an intern in the lab, I extracted DNA from samples of leaf tissue from adults and progeny and analyzed fragments of their DNA, primarily looking at allelic diversity. This experience truly taught me a lot. I refined my hard skills and gained vital lab experience, but more importantly, I gained confidence and found my voice in a professional scientific environment.

Bastille Ventures, Washington, D.C.

Student Intern: Kyle Kihlberg '29

Major: Economics

I worked as a Venture Capital Analyst at Bastille Ventures, a defense tech venture capital firm. My primary project was The 300, a data-driven ranking of the top 300 private-sector aerospace and defense tech companies, built on over \$80 billion in tracked government contract data. I conducted extensive research and verification across hundreds of companies, organized under an eight-vertical framework spanning space, autonomous systems, cyber, and advanced manufacturing, among others. Beyond research, I led congressional and embassy outreach for the project, culminating in a Fellows Reception and Panel Discussion I helped organize at the Capitol Visitor Center. I was later promoted to manage another intern. This experience deepened my understanding of the defense technology

landscape, from legacy primes to emerging startups, and solidified my interest in pursuing a career in Aerospace & Defense investment banking, with the goal of eventually moving into the investing side of the industry.

Lakeview Smiles, Kenmore, WA

Student Intern: Wyatt Kimball, '29

Major: Molecular Biology, Minor: Chemistry

This summer I interned at Lakeview Smiles, a dental practice specializing in family, cosmetic, and implant dentistry, under the guidance of Dr. Carol Lin. I began my tenure by observing procedures and taking on daily tasks like cleaning/prepping rooms. After earning my Registered Dental Assistant license, my role expanded - I began assisting directly during procedures and was able to expand my understanding of the "human component" of dentistry through numerous patient interactions. Dr. Lin saw my engagement growing and allowed me access to model mouth structures, specialized tools, and extracted teeth to practice skills like drilling, placing fillings, and creating crowns. Beyond the technical skills, I also learned valuable lessons of patience, attention to detail, and staying composed in a fast-paced clinical environment. The mentorship I received from Dr. Lin was incredible - offering a level of trust and hands-on exposure I hadn't expected. By the end of summer, my interest in dentistry has grown considerably, leaving me more confident in pursuing this path further. To that end, thanks to the connections made at Lakeview Smiles, I was recommended to Dr. Peysakhov at Bothell Oral, Maxillofacial & Implant Surgery for an internship in summer 2027.

National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville, CO

Student Intern: Clara Kirr '28

Major: Anthropology

I interned as part of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum's curator department. Being in a small town, the museum is severely understaffed and underfunded. Meaning that the tasks that I performed and assisted with were mostly grunt work, but still very fulfilling. Taking inventory on library items, helping set up a new gallery with all the small bits and pieces, taking pictures of donor items, and taking apart another gallery to help modernize it somewhat, all helped me get familiar with the work that is done in museums. Along with just getting familiar with this work, seeing the behind-the-scenes work done in museums made me appreciate what they do to preserve history to the fullest. Any help that the museum got was beneficial for them to spend more time doing more important or harder things, and made projects go by faster. Interning at The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is absolutely something I would do again in order to continue helping my community in its quest to preserve its history and share it with both locals and tourists.

Center for Large Landscape Conservation in Bozeman, MT

Student Intern: Luca Maes '27

Major: Political Science, Minor: Environmental Studies

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC) is a nonprofit organization that "advances ecological connectivity for climate resilience worldwide through science, policy, practice, and collaboration." Working both domestically and internationally, CLLC is committed to leveraging science-informed policy solutions to support landscape-scale conservation, especially habitat connectivity. I was excited to receive a positive response from Rebecca Boslough King, the U.S. Program Policy Specialist at CLLC. After emailing back and forth and arranging a few Zoom calls, Rebecca and I were able to agree on the details of a rewarding experience for me. As an intern for CLLC, I was tasked with researching state-level habitat connectivity and wildlife crossings policy and crafting related policy memos. The 8 memos I prepared will be used by CLLC advocates in Capitol Hill meetings with the aides of key Senators in the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with the ultimate goal of reauthorizing the Wildlife Crossings Program, which has granted states hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding in order to implement wildlife crossing infrastructure. Additionally, I had the opportunity to use my research to write an article detailing recent habitat connectivity policy developments in Utah—my piece was published on the website Conservation Corridor.

Bucket List Community News, Denver CO

Student Intern: Sydney McGarr '27

Major: English Creative Writing, Minors: Journalism & Spanish

This summer, I worked interned as a staff journalist at a Denver-based media outlet called Bucket List Community News. BLCN is an outlet dedicated to telling community-driven stories that otherwise get overlooked in broader

media. I served as their only reporter from Colorado Springs, helping them on their mission to branch out coverage into the Rocky Mountain West. Through the internship, I got to write weekly articles about the surrounding community, as well as produce multi-media content like video for the outlet. I primarily covered city council meetings in the Denver and Boulder area through a remote platform. The internship was a great way for me to expand the depth of my reporting abilities and learn what qualities I enjoy and don't enjoy in a newsroom. I'm very grateful to have been able to grow in my political and community-based reporting skills throughout the last three months with Bucket List.

John Howard Association, Chicago, IL

Student Intern: Caroline Moffitt '27

Major: History, Minor: Museum Studies

This summer I worked as an archival intern for the John Howard Association for prison reform. In this role, I spent time in the Chicago History Museum archives looking into the materials donated by the organization many years prior. I used my knowledge of archival practices to create a timeline of notable people, places, and events in JHA's history in preparation for their 125th anniversary. To do this, my co-intern and I worked together to combine research and compile a user-friendly database that holds important information as well as the location of primary documents so the information can be found more easily in the future. I also spent time organizing and documenting the files housed in the JHA office and advised on items I thought should be donated to the Chicago History Museum for preservation. Through this internship, I learned more about archival practices, how to research in different archival spaces, and how advocacy organizations such as JHA work.

Gold Rabbit Sports, Fairfield, CT

Student Intern: Lucia Moravek '28

Major: Business, Economics, and Society

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with Gold Rabbit Sports, a sports marketing agency, where I was the first and only intern. I am very grateful to the team for taking me on with little marketing experience. I was working remotely, helping the team with client-facing projects, research, and developing a social media strategy. I was able to work directly with clients and contribute to real projects, which gave me a better understanding of how a sports marketing agency operates and the different responsibilities that go into supporting clients. One of the most valuable parts about my internship was being given the freedom to take ownership of projects and share my thoughts with the team. This helped me build up my confidence in speaking and presenting, which I will take with me to any job. At the end of my internship, I also had the opportunity to attend Kentucky Downs, where I saw the amount of planning and work that goes on behind the scenes to put on a successful sporting event. Overall, this experience gave me a strong foundation in sports marketing and a better understanding of the agency industry.

Southwest Conservation Corps, Durango, CO

Student Intern: Tori Nilsen '27

Major: Environmental Studies and Mathematical Economics

This summer I worked on a trail crew for Southwest Conservation Corps. Funded by AmeriCorps, the organization partners trail crews with community members seeking help on various land management projects. Over the course of the summer, my 9 person crew worked with the US Forest Service, local farmers, and community organization to maintain or build trails, manage invasive species, and mitigate destructive erosion. Our work was based out of Durango, Colorado and projects were located in the surrounding southwest CO region. While working on a project, crews camped together nearby the work site for 8 straight days. This meant an intense, committed work environment where members of a crew were forced to become a tight-knit team that spent 24 hours/day together. Our work taught me much about the daily operations of careers in conservation (such as US Forest Service officials or recreational managers) as well as general expertise in land stewardship. The experience was especially meaningful in a time where conservation efforts lack federal funding, showing me how organizations persevere to maintain resources and support.

Eutemia LLC, Remote

Student Intern: Miles Nordling '27

Major: Molecular Biology

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with the team at Eutemia in the healthcare revenue cycle consulting space. Throughout the summer, I worked on several patient access consulting projects for hospitals across the United States, combining my knowledge of medicine with my passion for serving people. I was able to connect with professionals with 20+ years of experience in the field to gain hands-on industry experience from the best in the business. Eutemia is a very small boutique consulting company with only 3 full-time employees, meaning I was working directly under the founder on projects that really mattered to her vision for the future of the company and for the larger field of consulting. In addition to working directly with clients, I managed several internal projects as well. These projects required me to build crucial skills for the modern workforce, including leveraging different AI platforms, communicating efficiently and effectively, and presenting my research to executives with confidence. I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity to grow as a professional this summer, and I would highly recommend working with Eutemia to anyone interested in the healthcare consulting field.

Torrey House Press, Salt Lake City, Utah

Student Intern: Julian Paret '28

Major: English Major, German and Book Studies Minor

Torrey House Press (THP) is a small, non-profit publishing house focused on publishing books at the intersection of the literary arts and environmental justice. My role as their summer 2026 Editorial and Publicity Intern consisted of diverse tasks. From working with the acquisitions team to read and evaluate dozens of manuscripts for publication to writing press releases and working as the primary events publicity coordinator, I was thrown into the complicated world of publishing. I also had the pleasure of being the lead developmental editor for a Great Salt Lake activism chapbook called Microbialite Manifestos. In this role, I worked closely with the editor of the collection to revise, reorganize, and bring their vision for the chapbook to (printed) life. All the while, THP was experiencing the chaos of *Stitched* by Eli McCann, the most successful book in the company's 10+ year history, blowing up on TikTok months before its publication. Thank you so much to the THP team for your mentorship and unending graciousness. It was a great summer!

Milestones Pediatric Therapy, Durango, CO

Student Intern: Maddie Jo Robbins '28

Major: Neuroscience, Minor: Education

This summer, I completed an internship in applied pediatric neuropsychology in the my hometown of Durango, Colorado. At Milestones Pediatric Therapy Services, I shadowed occupational, speech, and physical therapists, gaining hands-on exposure to their evidence based techniques. I worked closely with clients presenting a wide range of neurodiverse profiles, including down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and brain injuries. Beyond observing therapeutic methods, I built relationships with clients and was consistently inspired by their resilience, humor, and hard work in the face of significant challenges.

I then interned with Anna Layden, MS, shadowing her psychoeducational evaluations for students. This experience deepened my understanding of how academic and cognitive assessments are used together to diagnose learning disabilities like dyslexia and neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD and autism. I learned how these evaluations help students and families secure the support and accommodations needed for learning success. Together, these experiences connected directly to my neuroscience and education coursework, offering practical insight into how classroom knowledge translates into real-world clinical and educational settings, and clarifying potential career paths at the intersection of neurodiversity, therapy, and education.

Coe Financial Group in Northbrook, IL

Student Intern: Riley Romisher '28

Majors: Business, Economics, and Society and Political Science

During my internship at Coe Financial Group, I worked alongside a dedicated and innovative team committed to growth, efficiency, and values-based planning. I saw firsthand that client relationships and trust are the foundation to financial planning. I supported clients throughout the full lifecycle, from acquisition to long-term relationship management, and assisted advisors with portfolio analysis across retirement, tax, and estate planning. I used my growing knowledge of portfolio construction, such as on platforms like AssetMark, and built an ESG (environmental, social, and governance) investing resource for clients. Additionally, I partnered with a fellow intern to further support business operations. Together, we increased client outreach through direct mail and life-stage-tailored messaging, and completed a competitive analysis of regional firms that turned into actionable insights for the firm. I am excited to keep building on this values-based experience and bring what I have learned into my coursework at Colorado College.

American High in Liverpool, NY (Remote)**Student Intern:** Maya Rosen '28**Major:** English, Film and Media Studies

This past summer, I had the privilege of working for American High as a Development Intern. American High is a film and television production studio based in Liverpool, NY. Their films have appeared at Sundance, been streamed on Hulu and Netflix, and had major U.S. Theater releases. American High's primary focus is high school and young adult-centered comedies, and my internship was provided by The Academy at American High, a non-profit working to increase education and access for students entering the film industry. In my role as a Development Intern, I evaluated and submitted coverage for scripts being considered by the studio. I spent most of my days thoroughly reading scripts and providing detailed feedback for the studio and even produced notes for the screenwriter's future edits on greenlit projects. When not reading scripts, I was also put on a creative project team to develop a pitch deck for the studio's upcoming project, created advertising materials to market their upcoming Netflix show, 'Minimum Wage', and created a personal short film project for their annual intern film festival.

St. Paul Pioneer Press in St. Paul, MN**Student Intern:** Georgia Ross '29**Major:** Political Science

The St. Paul Pioneer Press covers news across the Twin Cities and East Metro Area. As the oldest newspaper in the Minnesota territory, locals look to the paper for all local matters, from city hall rulings to Gophers rankings and best new restaurants in town. Although I was the designated features department intern, I took assignments for editors across sections. I explored new parts of the city, made connections with local entrepreneurs and leaders, honed my writing skills, and became much stronger at interviews and communication. I wrote pieces on new policy, like a statute allowing pet owners to donate unused and unexpired drugs at veterinary facilities to be redistributed, to music reviews, like the Minnesota Country Club festival where I got a backstage interview with one of the bands. One of my favorite stories covered a local teacher who brings students from his First Nations history class to learn from tribal leaders at the nearby reservation. I attended a pow wow, spoke with student alums and tribe members, and learned what the relationship meant to them – and was invited to join them on a trip this summer. I learned so much about how others respond to curiosity and questions.

NYU Project Healthcare at Bellevue Hospital, New York City, NY**Student Intern:** Olivia Schlegel '28**Majors:** Neuroscience, Minor: Latin American Studies

The emergency department can be an intimidating place, where patients often sit for hours waiting for CT scans or blood test results. While doctors and nurses may not always have adequate time to provide deeply patient-centered care, my role as an emergency department patient advocate allowed me to do so. I supported patients by getting them food and water, communicating their concerns to medical staff, and, most importantly, spending time with them and listening to their stories. Bellevue is known as a safety-net hospital and predominantly serves New York City's most vulnerable populations. Many patients in the ED feel frightened or invalidated when receiving care. As a patient advocate, I worked to alleviate their concerns and ensure they felt heard, respected, and valued. I also had the opportunity to shadow physicians, observe procedures, and learn about patients' medical histories and treatment plans. I was even permitted to observe surgeries in the operating room and labor and delivery departments. Most importantly, the patients of Bellevue left an enduring impact on me. Their stories amazed, horrified, and humbled me, and I feel honored to have worked alongside both patients and physicians.

Vibranium Labs in New York City, NY**Student Intern:** Lucas Southwell '28**Major:** Economics and Computer Science

Vibranium Labs is a startup building Vibe OnCall, an AI-based tool helping engineering teams fight software outages and incidents, competing with established platforms like PagerDuty and Opsgenie. Working directly with the CEO and COO on a small founding team, I ran the go-to-market operations and strategy. That meant writing and designing organic social content for LinkedIn, Instagram, and TikTok, building and A/B testing paid ad creative for Google and Meta campaigns, and producing campaign landing pages aimed at users moving away from competing platforms.

Much of my time went to building automations so that our marketing efforts could keep up, including a pipeline that renders code-generated designs into finished graphics, workflows for cleaning and enriching our CRM, and internal tools the rest of the team could use without knowing how to code. I also worked a handful of in-person events, running booths and talking with potential customers. What stuck with me was how much ground a small team can cover when it builds its own tools, and how different executing a go-to-market plan is from writing one.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Student Intern: Alisa Tran '28

Major: Climate Anthropology

As an Early Childhood Education intern, I got to facilitate public programming for children 0-8 and their caretakers at the museum as well as develop, test, and implement my own program about simple physics concepts. I also collected data used to secure grant funding, wrote interpretive plans used to train staff, and researched facts about aircrafts in our collection. My favorite part of the summer was getting to read the story time books at both NASM and the Hirshhorn Museum! I also enjoyed getting to observe early childhood programming at other Smithsonian museums and the zoo to see their different approaches to tying in relevant content. This experience overall opened my eyes to how much power museums, especially large institutions like the Smithsonian, have in determining what is worthy of presenting to the public and in what manner. In my role, I focused on making sure that our programming was cross-culturally accessible and could foster intergenerational connection for our visitors. It was very meaningful getting to make sure that someone is thinking on behalf of our youngest learners!

International Rescue Committee in Denver, CO

Student Intern: Clara Vega Rodriguez '29

Major: History-Political Science

Forced displacement is one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges today. This summer, I had the opportunity to contribute to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Denver as an intern on the Economic Empowerment Team, where I became part of the complex process of refugee resettlement and integration. As an Employment Specialist, I worked alongside staff to support newly arrived individuals as they navigated the American labor market and pursued pathways toward financial independence. Through this experience, I learned that employment is an essential part of rebuilding stability and achieving a sense of belonging in a new community. I had the chance to explore how factors such as language, previous professional experience, education, and access to digital resources shape employment opportunities for newcomers. I am extremely grateful to have helped individuals reclaim agency, and it taught me how intersectionality and political systems continuously redefine resettlement processes.

Dream Global Consulting in New York, NY

Student Intern: Roxanne Virtue '28

Major: Business, Society, and Economics

From May to August I worked with founder, Elijah Harlow and Head of Public Relations, Kate Marquez where I learned how storytelling, strategy, and creativity overlap in the marketing industry. Dream Global Consulting is a PR and Brand Consultancy firm that works with companies based in New York. I was assigned brands to work with, some of which included culinary pop-ups, art galleries, and fashion startups. My responsibilities throughout this internship consisted of copywriting, creating powerpoint presentations for our prospective sponsors, and organizational work within the company to ensure we were maximising all brand opportunities for our clients. The backbone behind all of these responsibilities was research. I spent a lot of time doing deep dives into the founders we worked with, talking to them personally about what brand and story they were wanting to build, then using the information I compiled to find existing brands to partner with. My summer internship at Dream Global showed me the importance of a human-first approach, that is, approaching every project with open-communication, passion, and persistence.

Caleb Meyer Studio in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia

Student Intern: Jane Wike '27

Major: Studio Art Design

This summer, I interned at Caleb Meyer Studio, a unique space that combines a fine jewelry storefront with an active design and fabrication studio. Working three days a week, I gained experience in both the creative and operational

sides of the business. During the first two days of each week, I assisted with photographing and modeling jewelry, editing images in Photoshop, and uploading final photographs to the studio's website and internal database. On my final workday, I received hands-on instruction from Caleb Meyer and goldsmith Rudy Lewis, learning studio techniques and gaining experience with professional jewelry-making tools. Throughout the summer, I created my own sterling silver ring, bracelet, and pair of earrings. Beyond developing my technical skills, I gained valuable insight into the jewelry industry through the studio's craftsmanship, client relationships, and collaborative environment. My time at Caleb Meyer Studio has been incredibly rewarding, and I hope to continue growing with the team in the future!

What is SCoRe?

During the summer of 2026, approximately 109 students participated in research under the mentorship and support of Colorado College's dedicated faculty both on and off campus. While the Block Plan structures academics around a condensed timeline, summer research allows students and faculty collaboratively to explore deeper into topics, by spending extended time researching in the classroom, the library, the lab, and the field.



The Student Collaborative Research (SCoRe) Program supports both students and faculty through academic and community field trips and gatherings, peer-to-peer presentations and discussions, and professional development workshops. We are excited to showcase the work CC faculty and students have done this summer.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS: ABSTRACTS, Session #1

Easel 1 • Communal and Exchange Relationships Predict Orgasm Frequency in Women

Student Researchers: René East; Ayala Rysbek; Natalie Caputo; Mia Stolmeier; Sophia Murphy

Major: Psychology

Faculty Collaborator: Jason Weaver, Psychology

The orgasm disparity between men and women, often referred to as the orgasm gap, is persistent across diverse heterosexual relationships. Building on previous literature linking communal strength to partner satisfaction (Mills et al., 2004), this study examined how exchange and communal relationships relate to the orgasm gap. We adapted items from well-established scales of communal and exchange measures to assess participants' perceptions of their partners' communality and exchange traits. We recruited 307 U.S. adults from Prolific. Mediation analyses tested whether communal strength predicted orgasm frequency through perceived relationship characteristics. Passion and trust significantly mediated this relationship. Exploratory analyses further found that having a more sexually exchange-oriented partner increased the likelihood of co-viewing pornography, which in turn increased perceived relationship quality and predicted higher orgasm frequency in women. Both communal and exchange relationships contributed to higher orgasm rates in women through different pathways.

Easel 2 • The Matrix Resimulated: Supercomputer Simulations of Pions and What They Teach Us

Student Researcher: Kay Quintana

Major: Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Christopher Monahan, Physics

The Standard Model of particle physics describes the fundamental building blocks of particles. A subset of these building blocks, quarks, are "glued" together by gluons to form larger particles called hadrons. Some hadrons, for example, protons and neutrons, are stable enough to be studied in particle colliders, while others, such as pions, are too unstable for physical experimentation. As a result, it is unknown how exactly quarks and gluons interact inside pions. Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics (LQCD) serves as a framework for simulating and studying these elusive hadrons. My research focused on writing Python scripts to analyze and fit 460 LQCD simulations. Through Bayesian analysis, we extracted average pion energy levels across all samples. Future research will incorporate our energy findings to better understand gluon momentum distributions.

Easel 3 • Understanding the Interactions Between Harmful Algal Blooms and Microplastics in Freshwater Systems

Student Researcher: Lilia Akinchina

Major: Organismal Biology and Ecology

Faculty Collaborators: Grace Armstrong; Sarah Janssen (program mentors)

Program: Freshwater@UW Summer Research Opportunities Program

As climate change accelerates, harmful algal blooms (HABs) are becoming more frequent and widespread in freshwater ecosystems. These cyanobacteria do not exist in isolation; they co-occur with emerging pollutants such as microplastics (MPs) in aquatic environments. MPs (<5 mm in size) serve as transport vectors for chemical contaminants and toxins in aquatic systems. Despite their increasing co-occurrence in freshwater ecosystems, the interactions between MPs and HABs remain poorly understood. This research investigates the microscale associations between algal strains of *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Anabaena flos-aquae* and MPs of varying types, shapes, and sizes to determine whether MPs promote algal attachment and biofilm formation on their surfaces. To address these questions, I used fluorescence microscopy and staining techniques to differentiate among algal cells, MPs, and biofilms. Following incubation, MPs served as surfaces for algal attachment and aggregation in both *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Anabaena flos-aquae*. The Calcofluor White staining approach identified algal biofilms on MPs,

suggesting that these biofilms may influence the interactions between contaminants and plastic surfaces. By investigating these associations, this work contributes to a broader understanding of HAB ecology and the role of microbe-particle associations in freshwater systems, with potential implications for water quality, food webs, and aquatic and human health.

Easel 4 • The Demographic Cliff and American College Admission

Student Researcher: Yu Chen Weng

Major: Mathematical Economics

Faculty Collaborator: Guanyi Yang, Economics

US births peaked in 2007 and have declined since. Alongside the decline, the composition of newborns has shifted: a growing share are born to college-educated mothers and to wealthier, higher-income families, and the Hispanic share of births has risen while the White and Black shares have fallen. These children begin reaching college age in 2025, so we ask what the enrollment data show as they arrive at college. Overall college enrollment is at a relative high point in the last twenty years; meanwhile, the Black-White enrollment gap has narrowed substantially, and the Hispanic-White gap has not. Against the shifts in births, however, the demographics of students entering college do not yet match the demographics of the cohorts on their way. This descriptive project uses birth records, survey data, and institutional data to document both patterns and the mismatch between them.

Easel 5 • The Politics of U.S. Data Center Regulation

Student Researcher: Sylvie Stiffler

Major: Environmental Studies

Faculty Collaborator: Corina McKendry, Environmental Studies

This research seeks to both identify trends within state-level data center policy in the U.S. since the release of ChatGPT and contextualize it within the broader scholarship on policymaking. First, a database of all enacted state-level policies containing the phrase “data center” between November 30, 2022 and June 1, 2026 was created and coded based on its relationship to data centers—supportive or restrictive—and the central focus of the policy. This analysis revealed a nearly complete shift in state-level legislation from supportive to restrictive in May 2025. Next, to begin understanding this shift, a literature review on theories of policymaking, with a focus on drivers of policy change, was conducted. Theoretical analysis of the data within these frameworks remains in progress.

Easel 6 • Investigating Properties of Misaligned, Low-Mass Galaxies

Student Researcher: Hugo Florentino-Avila

Major: Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Catherine Witherspoon, Physics

During the early stages of galaxy formation, stars and gas tend to rotate in the same direction. However, we have observed that they sometimes rotate in opposite directions. This project aims to find the properties of kinematically misaligned galaxies by plotting data from 3,250 low-mass galaxies observed by the SDSS MaNGA survey. We compare galaxy classification, star formation rate, and stellar age to kinematic offset to determine whether the presence of active galactic nuclei (AGN) has a significant effect on the behavior of low-mass galaxies, with a focus on kinematic offset. We plot emission line ratios and compare them to the effective radius of each spaxel. After graphing the different median stellar ages for each galaxy classification, we find that, within the full sample of low-mass galaxies, galaxies with an offset greater than 60 degrees tend to have older stars at larger radii. The AGN population tends to have older stellar populations than the overall sample, which implies a correlation between AGN presence and greater kinematic offset. Though no definite cause can be determined for now, these findings can help us better understand what might cause galaxy misalignment.

Easel 7 • From Primary Sources to Historical Reconstruction: Research Methods for Documentary Analysis in the Western Andes of New Granada

Student Researcher: Nicolás Murillo Ricardo

Major: History-Political Science

Faculty Collaborator: Miguel Durango-Loaiza, History

This presentation examines the research process I developed while studying legal records concerning Indigenous communities in the western Andes of the Viceroyalty of New Granada (present-day Colombia), a process that led me to focus on the territorial dispossession of the U'wa of Güicán between 1770 and 1800.

The scope narrowed as the corpus grew. An initial survey of legal conflicts involving Indigenous communities within the project timeframe gave way to a focused study of Güicán as evidence revealed land disputes and Indigenous resistance.

The shift began after I encountered a criminal case involving an Indigenous uprising in Güicán. In their confession, the leaders denied knowing the charges and accused the corregidor of taking a bribe from Spanish neighbor Antonio Herrera to suppress opposition to his land seizures. This testimony prompted me to search for records within a narrower scope to corroborate and contextualize their claims.

The research combined digital and physical archives. Using catalogues and online databases, I expanded the corpus by tracing judicial, administrative, and ecclesiastical sources connected to the case and organized the work into four stages: selecting documents, classifying and cataloguing, transcribing through paleographic analysis, and initial correlation with scholarship. Of the documents examined, 34 were partially transcribed, while the remaining records were documented through paleographic annotations with assistance from Transkribus.

Easel 8 • Developing an In Vivo Prime Editing Strategy for LCHAD Deficiency

Student Researcher: Faith Frazier

Major: Molecular Biology

Faculty Collaborators: Stephanie Blackwood; Vi Pham, Ph.D.; Kiran Musunuru, M.D., Ph.D.; Rebecca Ahrens-Nicklas, M.D., Ph.D.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Division of Human Genetics and Metabolism; University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

Long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (LCHADD) is a genetic metabolic disorder that impairs long-chain fatty acid β -oxidation, preventing normal energy production. Patients are at high risk for acute metabolic decompensation as well as chronic symptoms such as liver and heart failure, peripheral neuropathy, and retinopathy. Current treatments for LCHADD patients focus on dietary management to prevent metabolic decompensation episodes. Because most patients with LCHADD share the same c.1528G>C variant in the HADHA gene, gene editing is a promising treatment option. We investigated a prime editing strategy to precisely correct this variant, screening various prime editing guide RNAs (pegRNAs) and nicking guide RNAs (ngRNAs) in a cell line carrying the HADHA variant. Past screening has shown very limited editing, so the new pegRNAs were designed with the help of a new machine learning program, OptiPrime, developed by David Liu. Increased editing was observed in pegRNAs with reverse transcriptase template (RTT) sequences of 40–42 base pairs in length. Additionally, one of the ngRNAs that we tested was determined to be much more effective than the others. Once further optimized, these promising pegRNAs can be tested in an LCHADD mouse model to determine if this prime editing strategy could eventually be used as a treatment for LCHADD.

Easel 9 • An Accessible Design Thinking Process to Support Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Independent Making

Student Researchers: Ja'Toria Johnson; Marcos Arnold

Majors: Ja'Toria Johnson: Computer Science and Art Studio; Marcos Arnold: Computer Science and Sociology

Faculty Collaborators: Varsha Koushik, Colorado College; Lauren Milne, Macalester College
Mathematics and Computer Science, Colorado College; St. Paul School District Fabrication Lab, Minnesota

Design thinking – the process of ideating and creating a design – can be challenging yet rewarding, particularly when used to create assistive devices for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Nevertheless, current maker tools such as 3D printers, electronic toolkits, and the overall design process are inaccessible and not beginner-friendly for people with disabilities. To address this concern, our research focuses on making the process of design thinking more accessible to individuals with IDD.

To explore accessible alternatives, we followed a user-centered approach, designing for user needs through brainstorming, market research, understanding user needs, sketching, and prototyping. This involved participating in a challenge posted by Makers Making Change, a forum for designing and creating custom assistive devices based on real user needs, to scaffold an accessible process for individuals with IDD.

We developed helpful guides and supported the research team in conducting a do-it-yourself design workshop with students and teachers to explore need-specific scaffolding strategies for the design thinking process. Overall, a human-centered, scaffolded, accessible design process can support autonomy in creation for designers of all abilities.

Easel 10 • EQCM as a Tool for Mechanistic Study of PFAS Binding in Molecularly Imprinted Polymers

Student Researchers: Henry Batson; Michelle Laferriere; Evie Doran

Majors: Chemistry; Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Eli Fahrenkrug, Physics

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of synthetic chemicals that are linked to adverse health effects and remain exceptionally difficult and expensive to detect. Portable electrochemical sensors using molecularly imprinted polymers (MIPs) could provide a cheaper and easier way to detect PFAS. However, small changes in how these sensors are made can cause them to work differently, making it difficult to produce consistent, reliable sensors. Our research develops a method to study how changes to the sensor-making process affect the structure and properties of the MIP, helping us better understand and control sensor performance. To do this, we measured molecular-level mass changes as the polymer was being made. We found that varying the amount of the chemical o-PD used in polymer synthesis and changing how fast we applied voltage during the formation of the polymer (scan rate) had an impact on the polymer's properties.

Easel 11 • Reducing the Impacts of Early-Life Adversity on Stress Markers, Gut Microbiota, and Coping Behaviors with Probiotic Therapy

Student Researchers: Emily Haws; Charlie Strickland; Alex Ukropina

Major: Neuroscience

Faculty Collaborator: Lori Driscoll, Neuroscience

Traumatic experiences early in life, such as neglect, predict a variety of poor mental and physical health outcomes, including depression. These health impacts have been linked to changes in the gut microbiome. Stress from early life adversity (ELA) leads to gut dysbiosis, including a decrease in the bacterial genus *Bifidobacterium*. Stress-resilient mice show higher levels of *Bifidobacterium*. The aim of the current study was to assess the effects of supplementation with a probiotic, *Bifidobacterium infantis* 35624 (*B. infantis*), and prebiotic, human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs), on stress resilience and depressive behaviors in maternally separated and control adolescent rats. Long-Evans rats underwent maternal separation for five hours a day from postnatal days 1 to 18. After weaning, rats underwent behavioral testing to screen for depressive-like behaviors and resilience. Rats performed a forced swim test, novelty-suppressed feeding, a social interaction task, a sucrose preference test, and an acute restraint task. Levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a protein crucial for neuronal survival and growth, were measured in the hippocampus of adolescent rats. In our initial analyses, BDNF levels were found to increase with *B. infantis* supplementation for the rats that underwent maternal separation, but the probiotic supplementation did not have a significant effect on rats that had not experienced ELA. Analyses of the behavioral tests are currently underway.

Easel 12 • Synthesis of Novel Cobalt Spin Crossover Complexes and Spin Crossover Nanoparticles**Student Researcher:** Ann Margaret De Guzman**Major:** Biochemistry**Faculty Collaborator:** Amanda Bowman, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Spin crossover is a phenomenon that occurs in coordination compounds of transition-metal ions in which the central metal ion changes its spin state in response to external factors such as temperature, pressure, and irradiation. This alters the physical and chemical properties of the compound and has many potential applications, including use in data storage, displays, switches, actuators, sensors, and as magnetic resonance imaging contrast agents. To address the gap in knowledge about spin crossover cobalt complexes, a procedure for the synthesis of novel cobalt complexes along with their iron counterparts was tested. Additionally, two procedures for the synthesis of iron spin crossover nanoparticles were performed to explore the use of spin crossover nanoparticles as a potential drug carrier system. Complexes were synthesized in the laboratory and then analyzed using proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and infrared spectroscopy. Results suggest viable syntheses for the novel cobalt complexes and an iron spin crossover nanoparticle; however, crystallized products were not obtained. Future studies can determine methods to obtain pure products of the cobalt complexes and examine their spin crossover activity. The iron spin crossover nanoparticles can be further characterized, and synthetic methods for their water solubility can be determined for physiological applications.

Easel 14 • Dynamic Optimization: Theory and Practice**Student Researcher:** Megan Haussmann**Major:** Mathematics**Faculty Collaborator:** Ike Agbanusi, Mathematics

There are countless applications of optimal control, from aerodynamics to economics. This research was focused on expository work to understand optimal control and ultimately creating a package in R to solve a variety of different subclasses of problems. Currently, this tool can be used for any number of problems that have one state and one control, including problems in epidemiology and economics. After developing an understanding of optimal control and numerical methods, I began building the R package. The package solves problems using two methods—gradient descent and Newton's method—and accommodates additional conditions, such as bounds on the state and control.

Easel 15 • Centromere Evolution in Budding Yeast**Student Researchers:** Dillon Beaudette; Pearl Peterson**Major:** Molecular Biology**Faculty Collaborator:** Sara J. Hanson, Molecular Biology

A key aspect of cell division is the equal segregation of DNA content between the cells that are produced. Centromeres are DNA sequences found on each chromosome that are recognized by a protein complex called the kinetochore to ensure proper segregation. Despite their importance in this biological process, centromeres have changed rapidly in sequence and structure over evolutionary time. In budding yeast, a transition from epigenetically defined centromeres several thousand base pairs in length to short (<200 bp), genetically defined point centromeres has occurred. To better understand this key transition, our work focuses on *Phaffomycetales* budding yeast, which diverged prior to the evolution of point centromeres. We performed long-read genome sequencing and assembly for *Starmera stellimalicola* and *Cyberlindnera jadinii* to identify and characterize their centromeres. We show evidence of conserved synteny for centromere location and potential centromere motifs in both species. Future research will examine the evolution of centromere structure in this clade, the coevolution of kinetochore proteins, and confirmation of centromere function.

Easel 17 • Spontaneous Generation and Thoreau**Student Researcher:** Victoria Levi**Majors:** English Literature; Environmental Studies minor**Faculty Collaborator:** Sylvan Goldberg, English

Spontaneous generation (equivocal generation) was a scientific theory that living organisms could arise from nonliving matter. It remained a contested scientific theory throughout the nineteenth century, even as new experiments and debates challenged its validity, notably by Louis Pasteur's swan-neck flask experiment. Henry David Thoreau's *The Succession of Forest Trees* (1859) and his posthumously published *The Dispersion of Seeds* (1862) challenge spontaneous generation by arguing that new forest life emerged through seed dispersal by animals and environmental forces rather than appearing spontaneously, as some of his contemporaries had argued. His manuscripts were written concurrently with the scientific debates disproving spontaneous generation. To contextualize Thoreau's ideas and investigate why spontaneous generation was of particular importance to him, I surveyed nineteenth-century U.S. newspapers, journals from 1850–59 such as *The American Agriculturalist*, *The American Farmer*, scholarship in the MLA International Bibliography, and Victorian-era science textbooks to identify how the theory was taught, understood, and debated in both common and academic circles. This research reveals the broader intellectual discourse of spontaneous generation during the time Thoreau wrote and engaged with the scientific community and helps interpret his work.

Easel 18 • The Space in Between: Investigating Pions Through Supercomputer Simulations

Student Researchers: Ruby Kofron; Kay Quintana

Majors: Environmental Physics; Astrophysics

Faculty Collaborator: Christopher Monahan, Physics

Particle physics explores the mysteries of elementary particles, the building blocks of the universe. Quarks, one type of elementary particle, are "glued" together by gluons to form larger structures called hadrons. Some hadrons, like protons and neutrons, are easily studied in particle colliders. Others, like pions, are unstable and thus harder to experimentally probe. Instead, physicists turn to numerical methods like Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics (LQCD), a framework for simulating and studying these elusive hadrons. Physicists run LQCD simulations on supercomputers to model pions and "observe" their behavior over time. We wrote Python scripts analyzing best-fit trends across 460 LQCD simulations to isolate a pion's ground state energy. We extracted average energy levels for individual pions using Bayesian analysis to mitigate model bias in our final results. Future research will build on these results to broaden our understanding of pions and their internal dynamics.

Easel 20 • Synthesizing and Assaying Prodrug Inhibitors of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilm Formation

Student Researcher: Marisa Brashar

Major: Biochemistry

Faculty Collaborators: Amy Dounay, Olivia Hatton
Chemistry and Biochemistry; Molecular Biology

Antimicrobial-resistant bacteria pose a serious threat to public health, being listed by the World Health Organization as one of the top global health and development threats, and responsible for 1.27 million deaths in 2019. Antimicrobial-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is of interest to this study as it poses one of the highest global bacterial threats to life. *P. aeruginosa*'s strong antibiotic resistance is attributed in part to its ability to form biofilms—matrices that surround the bacteria and protect them from extreme conditions, including the host's immune system and antibiotic treatment. Focusing antibiotic research on compounds that can disrupt biofilms is therefore of extreme importance. 3,4-Difluorinated-phenylalanine (3,4-FPhe) has been shown to effectively inhibit biofilm formation in *P. aeruginosa* but may also be disruptive and toxic in animal and human biological systems. A targeted prodrug approach to delivering the fluorinated antibiotic can reduce harm to the host and has the potential to stabilize the antibiotic cargo until it encounters select enzymes synthesized by *P. aeruginosa*. This study modifies a previously designed prodrug to use 3,4-FPhe and tests the efficacy of a shortened linker.

Easel 21 • Stability in Individual Behavioral Biases Differ between *Drosophila* Species and Serotonin Receptor Mutants

Student Researchers: Payton Bell; Owen Graves; Asher Porad; Mia Predmore; Kwon Lazarus

Faculty Collaborator: Ryan Maloney, Psychology

Individuals across a wide range of species show individual behavioral preferences even when controlling for environment and genotype. This may serve an evolutionary bet-hedging function to ensure that a fraction of the population is suited for unpredictable environment. Theoretical work has shown that the stability of these preferences within an individual's life may serve an important role in driving variation within a population, particularly for behaviors subject to selective pressures that fluctuate within an animal's lifespan. We provide empirical evidence for this hypothesis by testing the stability of individual locomotor handedness across different species of *Drosophila*. We show differences between species with differing lifespans in the stability of their preferences over time, consistent with theoretical predictions for optimal bet-hedging strategies. We furthermore investigate potential mechanisms by which the stability of individual preferences could be maintained, and show that knocking out each of the five serotonin receptors in *Drosophila melanogaster* decreases the stability of individual behavioral preferences to differing degrees. Together these results provide a deeper insight into the potential ecological significance of individuality and how it may change over time, as well as provide a mechanistic substrate by which this evolutionary strategy can be implemented.

Easel 22 • Asymmetries in Barred Galaxies

Student Researcher: Quintin Falk

Major: Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Dhanesh Krishnarao, Physics

About two-thirds of spiral galaxies have bars, elongated central structures with high densities of stars and gas. This summer we looked at how bars affect asymmetry of the surrounding area. We compiled 1,300 barred galaxies from the MaNGA survey, a collection of data on 10,000 nearby galaxies, to look at different tracers of gas and stellar properties, such as stellar age, mass, and metallicity. We created polar plots from these data to identify asymmetries that we could evaluate visually. Because we could not visually evaluate every asymmetry in the dataset, we created plots showing smaller regions in greater detail. These detailed plots revealed a high stellar mass density on the left side relative to the bar. We hypothesized that this high density was created by spiral arms aligning in the data. To evaluate this theory, we looked at where the spiral arms were, and their distributions were very different from the stellar mass distribution. Future work includes investigating the skew in stellar mass density further and comparing it to the physical conditions of the gas, the age of the stars, and metallicity of the stars.

Easel 23 • Diagnosing Ionized Gas in the Milky Way

Student Researcher: Esabella Lamar

Major: Astrophysics

Faculty Collaborator: Dhanesh Krishnarao, Astronomy

The Local Volume Mapper (LVM) is a system of multiple spectroscopic telescopes designed to create a large, continuous map of ionized gas in the Milky Way by using observations of emission lines at optical wavelengths. We have compiled the observations into a large database to construct separate visual maps of the gas using each emission line. This allows us to characterize the ways individual stars heat and ionize gas in the Galaxy. This project seeks to use the LVM to find potential pockets of ionized gas surrounding white dwarfs and evolved OB stars. We use catalogs of hot, evolved stars from Gaia to determine whether these ionized gas bubbles are present by generating refined sections of LVM maps. Thus far, three sources show strong associations between the stars and ionized gas bubbles centered on them. In the future, we will expand the range of emission lines that we will use to diagnose the physical conditions of the gas. This will allow us to assess the impact of these faint, but hot, stars in the Galaxy.

Easel 24 • Microglial Expression and C1q Colocalization Following Neonatal Hypoxic Ischemic Brain Injury

Student Researcher: Fatima Barry '28

Major: Neuroscience

Program: Neuroscience Colorado Research Experience (N-CORE); Department of Anesthesiology, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Neonatal hypoxic ischemic brain injury may alter the activity of microglia, the resident immune cells of the central nervous system, and their interaction with the complement protein C1q. This project examined microglial expression and C1q-Iba1 colocalization in the CA1 region of the hippocampus following cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CA/CPR). Using immunohistochemistry, microtome sectioning, confocal microscopy, FIJI, and IMARIS, I stained, imaged, quantified, and visualized C1q and Iba1 expression. My analysis showed increased microglial expression following neonatal ischemia, while overall C1q expression remained unchanged. Changes in C1q-Iba1 colocalization suggest that ischemia may alter microglial-complement signaling, potentially contributing to excessive synaptic pruning and later cognitive deficits.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS: ABSTRACTS, Session #2

Easel 1 • Finding and Visualizing Complementary Proteins with Signed Distance Functions

Student Researchers: Tianyu (Elliot) Qiu; Jeremy Altman; Drew Smith

Majors: Art; Mathematical Economics; Computer Science

Faculty Collaborator: Cory Scott, Mathematics and Computer Science

Proteins bind when their surfaces are geometrically complementary, like locks and keys. Finding functionally similar proteins requires being able to search for proteins that have similar shapes, but doing so via exhaustive search is computationally difficult. We approached this problem by representing each protein shape using a signed distance function (SDF). To optimize search efficiency, we stored our protein shape dataset inside a data structure called a vantage point tree, which lowers the search time complexity from $O(n)$ to $O(\log n)$. For testing, we created our own protein shape dataset with the Trimesh library, representing each protein shape as unions of spheres.

To evaluate this method, we explored various techniques for visualizing SDFs, ultimately deciding to pursue a new visualization method derived from the Circle Hough Transform. With this method, we can theoretically visualize circular, spherical, and higher-dimensional SDF forms composed of circle (or circle-like, in higher dimensions) parts, as regions of similar behavior. Future work includes deploying our search and visualization methods to a publicly available web server to enable their use in biological research.

Easel 2 • Mapping Exoplanet Communities: A Multidimensional Network Science and Louvain Community Detection Framework

Student Researcher: Mauricio Choussy

Majors: Computer Science; Mathematics

Faculty Collaborators: Michael L. Wong; Anirudh Prabhu
Carnegie Science, Planetary Science

The discovery of more than 6,000 exoplanets has fundamentally transformed our understanding of the universe, bringing us closer to answering whether planetary systems like our own are exceptional in the cosmos. While recent data-driven methods have successfully applied network science to isolated subgroups, traditional global demography still relies on expert-defined taxonomies or isolated physical parameters. However, single-trait classifications frequently miss complex, multidimensional correlations, and since exoplanetary properties span multiple orders of magnitude, traditional classification methods remain susceptible to heavy-tailed skew. To bridge these gaps, this study develops an empirical, multidimensional network science framework to map the global topology of the exoplanet population. By applying log transformations and min-max normalization across key physical variables—including mass, radius, orbital period, insolation, and bulk density—we compute pairwise cosine similarities, apply percolation thresholding to identify critical breaking transitions, and use the Louvain algorithm for community detection. This data-driven approach cleanly resolves fundamental planetary archetypes without relying on preconceived human classifications, naturally partitioning the population into mathematically robust communities. By providing an unbiased framework for exoplanet taxonomy, this work establishes a scalable roadmap for cataloging exoplanetary diversity.

Easel 3 • Neural Activation Patterns of Song Recognition Memory Using Phosphorylated Ribosomes (pS6) and Tyrosine Hydroxylase Immunoreactivity in Male Zebra Finches

Student Research and Internship Symposium

Friday, September 25, 2026

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Student Researchers: Alyna Dao; Zach Levine; Meilani Molina; Joaquin Valencia

Major: Neuroscience

Faculty Collaborator: Psychology

Male zebra finches are useful model organisms for studying auditory and vocal learning. Previous research has demonstrated differences in neural activation when they are exposed to different songs, particularly within the caudomedial nidopallidum (NCM), a secondary auditory region. This study examines neural activation of song recognition memory in the NCM and in the caudolateral nidopallium (NCL), a less studied region that is likely involved. Adult male zebra finches were assigned to three groups: silence, novel, and trained songs. Birds underwent 3 hours of auditory exposure on day 1, followed by 30 minutes of exposure on day 2. The trained group heard the same song across days, while the novel group heard a different song on day 2. Immediately following exposure, brains were perfused, extracted, sectioned, and processed using immunohistochemistry. Phosphorylated ribosomal protein S6 (pS6) was used as a marker of recently activated neurons, while tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) was used to identify catecholaminergic neurons; TH has previously been used to delineate the NCL. Fluorescence microscopy was used for imaging and quantifying pS6 and TH. By comparing neural activation patterns across conditions, this study will characterize auditory memory and the distribution of TH+ fibers across brain regions. This work will expand on how adult brains form new memories.

Easel 4 • Reevaluating Analytical Methods for Measuring Organic Acids in Plant Tissue

Student Researchers: Peter Renwick; Micah Denslow; Quosiah Lawal; Magdalyn Rowley-Lange

Majors: Peter Renwick: Organismal Biology and Ecology; Micah Denslow: Environmental Studies; Quosiah Lawal: Biochemistry; Magdalyn Rowley-Lange: Organismal Biology and Ecology

Faculty Collaborators: Eli Fahrenkrug; Rachel Jabaily; Karolina Heyduk; Brad Oberle

Colorado College: Chemistry and Biochemistry, Environmental Science, and Organismal Biology and Ecology; University of Connecticut, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; New York Botanical Garden

Crassullean Acid Metabolism (CAM) is central to understanding plant adaptations to arid environments and may provide insight into mitigating anthropogenic climate change. By assimilating carbon dioxide into intermediate compounds at night, a plant can limit its water loss due to the fundamental trade-off of photosynthesis during the day. The product of this process are organic acids, where they are stored and used diurnally for plant growth. Researchers measure organics acids like Malic and Citric acid as proxies for understanding the extent to which a plant is capable of performing CAM. Our study aims to optimize the extraction and quantification methods for measuring these acids while highlighting accessibility, costs and field compatibility concerns. The common extraction solutions that are used include ethanol, water or even liquid nitrogen. For quantification, Titratable acidity (TA) and Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) are common methods observed in literature, while Enzyme Assays are novel in this line of work. Optimizations of these methods will be performed utilizing a Design of Experiments (DOE) framework, a statistical method that performs multivariate analysis. The Limit of Detection (LoD) and the Limit of Quantification (LoQ) are metrics used to determine a method's sensitivity to the analyte (i.e. Organic acids). These analytical figures of merit will be key in evaluating cross-method comparisons.

Easel 5 • Variability in Vertical Wind Profiles Across Nine Different U.S. Locations

Student Researcher: Sienna Schaay

Major: Environmental Science (Chemistry Emphasis)

Faculty Collaborator: Daniel Hueholt, Environmental Science

The Integrated Global Radiosonde Archive (IGRA) is the world's largest collection of radiosonde observations, with data dating back to 1905 and soundings from over 2,800 stations worldwide. To investigate how wind speed varies across different geopotential heights, we developed a Python codebase to perform quality control and calculate statistics on the wind profiles throughout the record. We chose nine different stations from across the United States for comparative analysis. These analyses included calculating the mean, standard deviation, 10th and 90th percentiles, and the autocorrelation of vertical wind profiles. To our knowledge, this is the first time that wind autocorrelation has been calculated from observational data, and we examine how it varies vertically at different stations. Additionally, we calculated seasonal and decadal statistics to investigate spatial and temporal change. The decadal plots show variation from decade to decade, with certain features exhibiting persistent trends throughout the

record. For each season and location, we applied the potential temperature gradient tropopause (PTGT) definition to estimate the average tropopause height at each site and observe how it varies by season and location. Our analysis shows how seasonal and multi-decadal statistics, tropopause height, and trends of wind speed profiles vary across different regional climates throughout the U.S.

Easel 6 • SUP-26 and Cytoskeletal mRNA Regulation in *C. elegans* Neuron Morphology

Student Researchers: Marina Seidl; Estefanía Izarnotegui Cerda; Mica Hart

Majors: Marina Seidl: Molecular Biology, Spanish Language minor; Estefanía Izarnotegui Cerda: Neuroscience; Mica Hart: Molecular Biology

Faculty Collaborator: Darrell Killian, Molecular Biology

Dendrites are neuronal structures critical for receiving signals, and defects in dendrite branching are linked to neurological disorders. The PVD neuron in *C. elegans* is an excellent model for genetic investigation of dendrite branching because PVD neurons have complex morphology and *C. elegans* is amenable to genetic manipulation and live imaging. Previous work identified the RNA-binding protein SUP-26 as important for PVD dendrite morphology. Biochemical analyses revealed that SUP-26 binds primarily to the 3' UTR of mRNAs and interacts with the Poly(A)-binding protein, suggesting a role in translational regulation. Our research identified approximately 20 SUP-26 target mRNAs that encode cytoskeletal proteins whose regulation could affect dendrite morphology. Six of these genes (*erm-1*, *frm-4*, *spc-1*, *F53E2.2*, *unc-70*, and *unc-115*) were selected to study. We sought to determine whether SUP-26 regulates the translation of these target genes. Using transgenes that express a fluorescent protein (GFP) with the 3' UTR of each target gene, we tested changes in expression following *sup-26* RNA interference and under control conditions. By evaluating 20 individuals for each genetic reporter for each condition, no statistically significant differences in reporter expression were found. Further research is needed to understand how SUP-26-mediated translational regulation affects dendrite morphology.

Easel 8 • Getting Off or Getting in Your Head? Pornography, Agency, Objectification, and Female Orgasms

Student Researchers: Natalie Caputo; Sophia Murphy; Mia Stolmeier; René East; Ayala Rysbek

Major: Psychology

Faculty Collaborator: Jason Weaver, Psychology

This poster examines how pornography consumption impacts female orgasm rates through sexual agency and self-objectification. Previous literature has established that sexual agency increases sexual satisfaction, whereas self-objectification decreases it. Female pornography consumption fosters agency but also self-objectification. We examined these competing mediators' effects on orgasm rate. The present study recruited 300 Prolific participants. Both solo and co-viewing pornography demonstrated significant positive indirect relationships with female orgasm rate when mediated by sexual agency. Self-objectification did not act as a mediator, despite significant positive correlations with both types of consumption. The increase in sexual agency from pornography consumption mattered more to women than the increase in self-objectification when it came to orgasm. Notably, pornography consumption for men has only shown negative associations, and so these findings offer novel insight into female pornography consumption. This research suggests a method of increasing women's orgasms, but also offers a cautionary note: an increase in self-objectification should not be dismissed.

Easel 9 • Fetishes Fuck Finishing: Sexualization Decreases Orgasm Rates for Women of Color

Student Researchers: Sophia Murphy; Natalie Caputo; Mia Stolmeier; Ayala Rysbek; René East

Major: Psychology

Faculty Collaborator: Jason Weaver, Psychology

Historical tropes rooted in colonialism, imperialism, and racism pervade current society through the hypersexualization and fetishization of women of color. Previous literature highlights the correlation between sexualization and self-objectification. Self-objectification has not directly influenced orgasm rates but has via sexual agency. We hypothesize that this disproportionately affects women of color due to sexualization and fetishization. This study developed an original seven-item measurement tool for sexualization/fetishization. Using a Prolific survey (N=300), we tested the

hypothesis that increased levels of sexualization/fetishization would ultimately decrease orgasm rates for women, mediated through self-objectification, self-esteem, and sexual agency. The analysis revealed a negative effect of sexualization/fetishization on self-esteem, causing a negative indirect relationship of sexualization/fetishization to orgasm rate. These findings emphasize the importance of considering intersecting identities when focusing on women's sexual pleasure as women of color reported higher levels of fetishization and sexualization, thus becoming disproportionately impacted by the orgasm gap.

Easel 12 • Investigating Spiral Arm Dynamics with LVM

Student Researcher: Ethan Driscoll

Major: Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Dhanesh Krishnarao, Physics

The Local Volume Mapper (LVM) is a survey observing dense, brightly lit optical emission-line regions in regions local to the Milky Way. LVM is unique in that its data have a high level of spatial detail, allowing observation of gas pockets or structures invisible to other surveys. In this project, we aim to combine LVM data with diffuse-gas-specific surveys such as WHAM to better understand spiral arm dynamics within the Milky Way. We analyzed the properties of ionized gas using emission line ratios, including [O III] $\lambda 5007$ /[H α] $\lambda 6563$, [S II] $\lambda 6717$ /[H α] $\lambda 6563$, and [N II] $\lambda 6583$ /[H α] $\lambda 6563$ as functions of height above the galactic disk. We also tracked velocity trends for [H α] $\lambda 6563$ and [S III] $\lambda 9531$ along the lengths of spiral arms to identify arm structure. The less commonly used [S III] $\lambda 9531$ was selected because longer wavelengths can effectively pass through light-blocking dust clouds, allowing data collection for more distant Milky Way arms. The clarity of the LVM data exceeded our expectations, allowing us to study spiral arms much further away in the galaxy than expected. We found substantial correlation between LVM and WHAM data, suggesting that they may show similar gas densities. This similarity enables us to combine LVM and WHAM into a synergistic dataset that allows us to study the Milky Way in high detail.

Easel 13 • L-Phenylalanine Restores *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilm Formation After Treatment with Fluorinated L-Phenylalanine Derivatives

Student Researchers: Emilia Vocke; Jiaqi Elisa Zhang

Major: Molecular Biology

Faculty Collaborators: Olivia Hatton; Janna Brown, Molecular Biology

Pseudomonas aeruginosa forms biofilms that contribute to chronic infections and increased antibiotic tolerance. Previous work in collaboration with the Distributive Drug Discovery (D3) Project identified fluorinated L-phenylalanine derivatives as potential compounds that inhibit biofilm formation. This study investigated whether the activities of four fluorinated compounds— 4-fluoro-L-phenylalanine (4-F), 3,4-difluoro-L-phenylalanine (3,4-diF), and the prodrugs D3-42 and D3-62—are associated with phenylalanine-dependent processes using an L-phenylalanine (L-Phe) rescue assay. *P. aeruginosa* PA14 biofilms were treated with each compound alone, in combination with increasing concentrations of L-Phe, or with increasing concentrations of L-Phe alone, and biofilm biomass was measured using crystal violet staining.

All compounds inhibited biofilm formation. Increasing concentrations of L-Phe progressively rescued biofilm formation in the presence of fluorinated L-Phe derivatives. These findings support the hypothesis that the four fluorinated compounds affect phenylalanine-dependent processes, potentially via competitive inhibition, although additional studies are required to determine the molecular mechanism.

Easel 14 • Analytical Identification of Cyanotype Toners Across Different Substrates

Student Researcher: Gifty Yeboah

Major: Chemistry

Faculty Collaborator: Amanda Bowman, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Art conservation employs a variety of analytical techniques to identify and characterize the properties of cultural heritage objects to preserve history. The cyanotype is a photographic process in which the characteristic blue hue of

the print is produced from the intervalence charge transfer within iron(III) hexacyanoferrate(II), or Prussian Blue. Toners are chemical treatments that alter the coloration of the cyanotype, but limited research has characterized toners chemically, particularly across different substrates. This study examined cyanotypes produced on three paper substrates—cotton, wood pulp, and vellum—and assessed whether selected nondestructive analytical techniques could identify characteristic markers within each toner. The analytical techniques evaluated were diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS), X-ray fluorescence (XRF), and Raman spectroscopy. Across all three substrates, they produced similar results. DRS showed potential but requires further experimentation because the results were inconclusive. XRF shows strong potential as a preliminary screening technique for identifying relevant elements within toners, such as potassium permanganate or nickel(II) chloride. Raman spectroscopy identified three of the toners examined: gallic acid, lead(II) acetate, and tannic acid. These results show the potential of nondestructive techniques for the characterization of cyanotype toners, although additional testing is necessary to establish reliable identification criteria with Raman and DRS.

Easel 15 • Examining Access to U.S. Hospitals Using Topological Data Analysis

Student Researcher: Nate Solomon

Major: Mathematics

Faculty Collaborator: Molly Moran, Mathematics

Topological data analysis (TDA) is an approach to data science that uses concepts from algebraic topology to examine the shape of datasets. In this study, TDA was used to identify gaps in hospital access and compare the total time required to reach and receive treatment across four different cities. Although three of the four cities studied have similar geographic spread in terms of driving times between hospitals, we observed a difference in their overall access times, demonstrating the importance of incorporating emergency room wait times when evaluating hospital access.

Easel 16 • The Defining Characteristics of Low-Mass Galaxies with Active Galactic Nuclei

Student Researcher: Johan Garcia Castelan

Major: Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Catherine Witherspoon, Physics

Located at the centers of galaxies, active galactic nuclei (AGNs) are accreting supermassive black holes that emit powerful jets and winds. Low-mass galaxies can be dominated by star formation, which masks the presence of an AGN, making it easier for traditional diagnostics to undercount real AGNs. Since the detection of He II requires a higher ionization energy, it is a more reliable diagnostic for ensuring a truer count of AGNs in the sample. We used the He II diagnostic to identify AGNs in the MaNGA sample of 3,250 dwarf galaxies at the spaxel and galaxy levels. Using a spaxel- and galaxy-level comparison between previously classified and He II-classified AGNs, we analyzed the properties of He II-selected AGNs, star formation rates (SFR), and radial AGN fractions. Of 36,796 total spaxels, 27,851 (75.7%) were identified as He II AGN spaxels, and we find that 43.82% of the full low-mass galaxy sample had greater than five He II AGN spaxels. For the He II-selected AGNs, the median SFR was 0.2047 solar masses per year. We discovered five galaxies with abnormally elevated SFRs greater than 10 solar masses per year. Further investigation is needed to determine whether elevated SFR correlates with AGN presence.

Easel 17 • Roman Imperial Coinage: Classifying Numismatic Artifacts of the Severan Dynasty

Student Researcher: Cameron Lara

Major: Economics

Faculty Collaborator: Richard Fernando Buxton, Classics

The American Numismatic Association Money Museum, located near Colorado College, houses a large collection of Roman coinage. Beyond their economic function, Roman coins represented an early form of mass media, allowing emperors to legitimize their authority and spread political and cultural messaging. Combined with their durability and beauty, this economic and political significance makes Roman coins valuable historical evidence and engaging teaching tools. During the project, I assisted the ANA in improving the accuracy of its digital catalog while creating a

repository of specimens for future use by the Colorado College Classics Department. My primary responsibility was to identify and classify coins according to volumes III and IV of the Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC) reference series, focusing in particular on the Severan Dynasty (AD 193–235). To identify individual coins, I compared their physical characteristics—including portraits, legends, denominations, and reverse types—with published RIC references and digital resources such as the ANS Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE) database. I then used these identifications to review and correct existing catalog records, including previously misidentified specimens. This project demonstrates how systematic numismatic identification can improve both the scholarly value of museum collections and their potential as resources for teaching the ancient world.

Easel 18 • Reducing Inequalities in Literacy Through Community-Based Research: A Colorado College–Spruce Community School Partnership

Student Researcher: Keely Lueckeman

Major: Education

Faculty Collaborators: Tina Valtierra; Debra Mortenson, Education

Educational inequalities in literacy and language development continue to disproportionately affect historically underserved K–8 students, particularly multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and neurodivergent students, especially those with dyslexia. This project explores how a university and public charter school partnership can address these inequities through research-based literacy intervention while creating more meaningful connections between research, teacher preparation, and community-based learning. In addition to engaging in intentional practices and educator training, we are in the process of submitting a proposal for the William T. Grant Foundation to continue the necessary research.

Colorado College is partnering with Spruce Community School, a newly founded K–8 school in Colorado Springs School District 11, to develop a collaborative learning center prioritizing literacy, language development, and project-based learning (PBL). Spruce is the first school in District 11 to center its educational model on PBL while emphasizing literacy, student agency, and community engagement. Colorado College contributes faculty expertise, aspiring teachers, research capacity, and unique experiential opportunities made possible through its learning model, the Block Plan.

The partnership will investigate how Structured Literacy and evidence-based reading intervention can be integrated into authentic, community-based PBL experiences that promote the holistic development of students and develop a love of learning. The research will consider not only students' literacy outcomes but also how language, culture, disability, identity, and student agency influence engagement and learning. Colorado College Education students will have opportunities to observe and participate in classrooms, engage with literacy intervention, and contribute their knowledge of emancipatory pedagogies to a local public school. The partnership will also provide professional learning and technical support for educators while developing future opportunities for specialized literacy training.

Ultimately, this project is rooted in praxis, asking how research and practice can work together to ensure that students have equitable access to effective literacy instruction while positioning their communities, experiences, and voices as essential sources of knowledge.

Easel 19 • Flaring Behavior of Sub-subgiant Stars

Student Researcher: Sara Dunnigan

Major: Physics

Faculty Collaborator: Natalie Gosnell, Physics

Sub-subgiants (SSGs) are unusual binary stars that appear redder and fainter than expected for their evolutionary stage on a color-magnitude diagram (CMD). This unusual position on the CMD is thought to be a result of increased magnetic activity. Hallmarks of increased magnetic activity are often increased H-alpha emission, stellar spots, and flares. While flaring behavior has been noted in individual stars within the sub-subgiant catalog, no one has studied flaring activity across the population as a whole. In this project, we extracted light curves—measurements of how a

star's brightness changes over time— from the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), using the Leiner et al. (2022) Catalog. We then used a Python package called AltaiPony to analyze flares. Our preliminary results suggest that SSGs' flaring mechanisms differ from those of RS Canum Venaticorum (RS CVn) stars, a class of magnetically active binaries of which SSGs were once thought to be a subtype.

Easel 20 • Identification of Novel Human Brain-Derived Retained Intron Sequences Associated with Oligomer Formation

Student Researcher: Jens Kasten

Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Chenxi Qiu, Harvard Medical School

Additional Collaborators: Dr. Yuelin Yang; Dr. Bingbing Duan; Dr. Nami Kim; Daniel Ni
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Protein misfolding and aggregation are hallmarks of many neurodegenerative diseases, with soluble oligomeric assemblies increasingly implicated in neuronal dysfunction and neurotoxicity. However, the sequence features that promote oligomer formation remain incompletely understood. Building on previous work showing that a retained intron-derived sequence in Tau11i promotes oligomerization, alanine-scanning mutagenesis identified an EG/GE-containing region associated with oligomer formation. This observation motivated a broader screen of human brain-derived retained intron sequences containing EG/GE motifs. Candidate sequences were derived from proteins involved in diverse nervous system functions, including synaptic organization, neurotransmission, neuronal excitability, energy metabolism, and transcriptional regulation. EGFP-tagged constructs containing these sequences were expressed in HEK293FT cells and analyzed by Western blot. Multiple retained intron-derived sequences produced high-molecular-weight oligomeric assemblies, demonstrating that this oligomer-forming capacity extends beyond Tau11i to sequences derived from diverse proteins expressed in the human brain. These findings identify retained intron-derived peptides as a potentially broader source of oligomeric assemblies and provide a foundation for investigating the sequence features that drive their formation and their potential relevance to neurodegenerative disease.

Easel 21 • Water Management in the Colorado River Basin

Student Researcher: Waverly Fisher

Major: Environmental Studies

Faculty Collaborator: Eric Perramond, Environmental Studies; Southwest Studies

My project's goal was to investigate how the Colorado River and connected tributaries could be managed in a way that both preserves existing water supplies and affords sufficient water rights to people in the Colorado River Basin. I also wanted to investigate how unnecessary water use can be reduced, especially in years of drought. To conduct my research, I traveled to Durango and interviewed several people from different backgrounds who have knowledge about water and our reliance on it in the Colorado River Basin. I also conducted several interviews via Zoom and conducted background research by reading scientific literature and articles on the topics I was interested in. Ultimately, I found that the Colorado River Basin is not currently being managed in a way that supports sustainable future water use. In its current state, the Colorado River Basin is being overused because of patterns of water use, ineffective policy, and socioeconomic disparities. Potential improvements include adopting agricultural practices that the environment can feasibly support.

Easel 22 • NaturalPRISM: A Natural Language Premise Retrieval Task for Research-level Intermediate Proof States

Student Researcher: Li An Li

Major: Computer Science, Mathematics

Faculty Collaborators: Prof. Luis David Garcia Puente; Prof. Ben Nye; Harris Proctor (alum)
Mathematics & Computer Science

As large language models become more involved in research-level mathematics, effective retrieval of relevant mathematical statements is increasingly important for supporting proof development. This project introduces NaturalPRISM, a large-scale benchmark and dataset for premise retrieval from natural-language mathematical proofs. We constructed the dataset by processing 235,314 arXiv mathematics papers, extracting theorem-like statements and proofs from LaTeX source, and using internal references to pair partial proofs with the mathematical statements. After

filtering ambiguous or low-information examples, the resulting dataset contains more than 1.7 million query–answer pairs spanning all 32 arXiv mathematics categories. We then fine-tuned Qwen3 embedding models and evaluated both general and domain-specific retrieval strategies. Fine-tuning substantially improved retrieval performance, while models trained on data from the same mathematical domain consistently performed best on domain-specific evaluations. A lightweight routing approach that directs queries to specialized models achieved the strongest overall results. These findings show that large-scale natural-language training data can make smaller, specialized retrieval models highly effective, providing a practical foundation for retrieval-augmented systems that assist mathematicians during incremental proof development.



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