2022 Austin College
Departmental Honors
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Special thanks to those who have made the 2021 – 2022 Honors Program at Austin College possible:

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Vickie Kirby
Charley Francis Bartolo

Hometown: Allen, Texas

Major: Anthropology with a minor in Philosophy

Future Plans: I am interested in perusing research work and applying for a Master’s Program in the Field of Anthropology

Thesis Director: Dr. Terry Hoops

Committee Members: Dr. Brian Watkins & Dr. Mark Hébert

Thesis Title: *The Zebra In A Forest Of Horses: An Ethnographic And Anthropological Analysis Of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome And Community*

This work is concerned with documenting and relaying the life experience and social integration people with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome are able to sustain with a chronic and often disruptive illness. The main interest of the paper is the personal social network and support systems available to an individual with EDS and how they can these social interactions with a chronic and often complicated multi-presentational illness. Additionally, the perspective and life experiences of these individuals is shown and related to other common experiences of similar-aged young adults with a highlight on the information people with EDS would like to tell society at large. The social community that individuals with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome are able to sustain is predicated on their ability to balance between official medical care, socialization time, general self-care and personal medical care, and social building time and other relevant social obligations. My aim will be to determine the difficulties an individual with EDS may face because of the many difficulties of their condition and to further present the relevant ways they maneuver around unexpected complications. This is based on the primary understanding that most people feel a need for social integration and this social integration becomes difficult when time in the day is taken up by necessary care and preventative considerations of the individuals with EDS. Community education is the main goal of this work because it has the potential to significantly positively impact individuals with chronic illness directly and indirectly through community education.
Sonia Charales

Hometown: Sunnyvale, Texas

Major: English with a minor in Chemistry

Future Plans: Sonia will be attending Salus University for their Doctor of Optometry Traditional Program.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Greg Kinzer

Committee Members: Dr. Felix Harcourt & Dr. Lisha Daniels Storey

Thesis Title: Desi Enough: A Collection of Poetry

Given the events of the last few years, it has become more important than ever for marginalized voices to come forward to talk about the experiences and struggles of being a person of color in America. My poetry collection provides such a perspective through an Indian American lens. The poems address different topics like multilingualism, racism, stereotypes, and reclaiming aspects of Indian culture from the view of an American-born individual. My collection utilizes a variety of forms that range from the adaptations of Indian musical structures to found poetry. Poems written also discuss topics of struggles within Indian immigration and historical events like the Bellingham Riots. As a collection of poems, this project is organized around a movement from silence into vocality and the development of confidence in culture for the speakers of the poems. The purpose of my work is to serve as a voice of minority Americans and marginalized groups that is relatable. For those who have been told to be silent, I inspire to encourage vocality during times when it is becoming more important than ever before.
Nicole DeLuna

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas
Majors: Anthropology & Economics
Future Plans: Nicole plans to work in the non-profit sector and take the time to apply for a Master’s degree in Public Policy.
Thesis Director: Dr. Terry Hoops
Committee Members: Dr. Brian Watkins & Dr. Daniel Nuckols
Thesis Title: The Urban Scheme: An Anthropological Perspective on Gentrification and Restructuring of a City

Lavaca, one of the oldest neighborhoods in San Antonio, Texas, is undergoing demographic shifts, an increase in housing prices, and fighting to keep its historical integrity. This ethnographic and historical research follows the social patterns and changes categorized within the urban literature as gentrification through interviews, observations, and discourse. The perspective of anthropologist Pierre Bourdieu’s theory on Symbolic Capital— including social capital, cultural capital, and economic capital— is adopted to understand the connection between social status and gentrification. This perspective helps explore the following question: Is gentrification an inevitable externality of urban development or change? The research reflects how reimagining the neighborhood and restructuring the city is used as a scheme in urban settings to reinforce the spread of globalization and neoliberalism. I will uncover the history of the neighborhood and the relationship between Lavaca residents, investors, and developers. Additionally, I will expand on the practice of historic preservation at the political and social level. With an understanding of the shifts in Lavaca at a local level, the restructuring of San Antonio as a city is revealed.
Délice Dembe J

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Major: English with an emphasis in Creative Writing and a minor in Psychology

Future Plans: Master of Arts in Teaching with KIPP Relay Program

Thesis Director: Dr. Meg Brandl

Committee Members: Dr. Lisha Daniels Storey, Dr. Colin Foss & Dr. Greg Kinzer

Thesis Title: Lukewarm

Lukewarm is a state of moderation. Neither hot nor cold, but good enough to be quickly swallowed. Still exploring the white spaces of changes and beliefs, this work explores the control of languages while dealing with everyday challenges of what it means to encompass different identities. As a Black Christian woman in predominantly white spaces, the author recalls her experiences of having to find a space of comfort. Many of the pieces look back on a personal journey of faith, growth, and changes in all its different facets while attempting to build an identity for oneself. In writing these combined sorrows, joys, and fears as a person of color in an institute of higher education, the author dares to break away from norms and borrow from others to express what it is to be and not be through written art.
Shannon Claire Fagen

Hometown: Carson City, Nevada

Major: Psychology with a minor in Creative Writing

Future Plans: Attending University of Nevada, Reno for a Master’s in Social Work

Thesis Director: Dr. Peter Marks

Committee Members: Dr. Matthew Findley & Dr. Nathan Bigelow

Thesis Title: The Influence of Differing Political, Religious, and Social Views on Emerging Adults’ Closeness with Parents

For many, the transition to college provides exposure to novel political and social views, which may conflict with parents’ beliefs. The current study investigates the way that disagreement across different worldviews might be related to closeness of relationships between college students and their parents. 98 college students completed a questionnaire assessing changes in closeness with their primary caregiver(s) over time. Questionnaires also assessed both individual and caregiver views on politics, religion, and homosexuality attitudes. Although a predicted path model was not supported, correlations and multiple regressions showed that differences between individuals’ and parents’ views tended to predict changes in closeness with parents. As expected, differences between individuals and parents in political views, religious views, and sexual orientation views predicted changes in closeness with parents, although these predictions were more often significant in relation to the father. Limitations of the study and implications of these findings will be discussed.
Jessica Lynn Hoffman

Hometown: Denton, Texas

Majors: Biology & Public Health

Future Plans: Attend medical school at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

Thesis Director: Dr. Lance Barton

Committee Members: Dr. Kelli Carroll & Dr. Bradley Smucker

Thesis Title: Phenotypic Analysis of Tumorigenic Cells Following PA28γ Reduction Through CRISPR/Cas9

PA28γ is a proteasome activator that is overexpressed in several cancer types and positively correlated with cancer severity. Moreover, PA28γ deficient mice treated with a tumor inducing agent form fewer and smaller tumors as compared to wild type mice, further suggesting that PA28γ might play an important role in tumorigenesis. In order to determine whether the overexpression of PA28γ is essential to maintaining tumorigenic properties within cells, the CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing tool was utilized to engineer partial heterozygous deletions of the psme3 gene, which encodes for PA28γ, in the A9 murine tumorigenic cell line. The main goal of this project focuses on phenotypic analysis of reducing PA28γ expression through CRISPR/Cas9 to understand how PA28γ contributes to maintaining cancer phenotypes. Evidence suggests that reducing PA28γ expression inhibits proliferation, anchorage-independent growth, and migration in tumorigenic cells as demonstrated through MTS assays, flow cytometry, soft agar colony formation assays, and wound healing assays. Overall, these findings indicate that PA28γ may be crucial for maintaining tumorigenic properties within cells.
Prithvi Satyan Kalkunte

Hometown: Frisco, Texas

Major: Mathematics with minors in Philosophy and Data Science

Future Plans: Research Analyst at the Dallas Federal Reserve

Thesis Director: Dr. Andrea Overbay

Committee Members: Dr. J’Lee Bumpus & Dr. Karánn Durland


This thesis examines the minimal neighborhood topological property of topological spaces: what it is, which spaces have it, and how we can use it to better evaluate limits. Subtopics include Hausdorff spaces, Discrete spaces, Nested spaces, and Alexandrov spaces, with examples ranging from the familiar (integers, real numbers) to the unfamiliar (finite point sets, the Cantor set). Ultimately, our understanding of the minimal neighborhood property allows us to solve questions of sequence convergence on topological spaces with greater ease, and offers potential for further future study in Alexandrov spaces, topologies on countable versus uncountable spaces, and sequences on compact topological spaces.
Jade Kemp

Hometown: Katy, Texas

Major: Chemistry

Future Plans: Will be pursuing a PhD in chemistry at Columbia University

Thesis Director: Dr. Andrew Carr

Committee Members: Dr. Stephanie Gould & Dr. Andrea Overbay

Thesis Title: A Greener Approach to the Synthesis of Bis-Urea Organogelators

Organogelators are molecules capable of gelling solvents through intermolecular forces and have recently grown in popularity due to their applications in pharmaceuticals and oil spill recovery. This research focuses on the formation of a bis-urea organogelator, whose synthetic method is practiced by students at Austin College in organic chemistry teaching laboratories. Currently, the synthesis of the organogelator utilizes toxic chemicals, such as N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) and dichloromethane (DCM), which are considered carcinogenic and environmentally hazardous. This study explores alternative, more environmentally friendly solvents throughout the synthesis of the molecule to produce a greener synthetic method. Acetonitrile is shown to be a successful replacement solvent to DMF in the initial alkylation of the starting compound, while tetrahydrofuran (THF) is able to replace DCM in the bis-urea formation. Product yields are maintained when substituting the greener solvent alternatives. These replacement solvents improve the green chemistry of the reaction, decreasing the amount of hazardous solvent utilized during the synthetic method and waste produced by Austin College.
The current study utilized conditional process analysis to determine whether anti-fat attitudes predict self-esteem, body image, and disordered eating attitudes via internalized weight bias. In addition, the impact of self-perceived body size and BMI on the aforementioned relationships was examined. The sample included 194 participants recruited mainly from a small liberal arts college in the south and through social media. Internalized weight bias was found to fully mediate the relationship between anti-fat attitudes and self-esteem, body image, and disordered eating attitudes. In addition, self-perceived body size significantly moderated the indirect relationships such that those who self-perceived their bodies as overweight were more likely to internalize their anti-fat attitudes and report worsened self-esteem, more disordered eating attitudes, and greater body image distress even when controlling for BMI. BMI category did not significantly moderate any of the indirect relationships. In addition, neither BMI category nor self-perceived body size significantly moderated the direct relationships between anti-fat attitudes and self-esteem, body image, and disordered eating attitudes. These preliminary findings indicate that those who perceive their bodies as overweight, regardless of BMI, may be more likely to internalize their own anti-fat attitudes and report worsened mental health. The current findings may have implications in the treatment of eating disorders and weight stigma related concerns.
Madelyn Grace Oliver

Hometown: Spring, Texas

Majors: Biology with a Concentration in Cellular & Molecular and Spanish

Future Plans: Madelyn plans to pursue a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Thesis Director: Dr. David Aiello

Committee Members: Dr. Lance Barton & Dr. Andrew Carr

Thesis Title: Investigating the Effects of Downstream Targets of the HOG and CWI MAPK Cascades on Growth Defects Observed in the Saccharomyces cerevisiae pgm2∆ mutant

In Saccharomyces cerevisiae, the enzyme phosphoglucomutase (PGM) catalyzes the interconversion of glucose-1-phosphate (Glc-1-P) and glucose-6-phosphate (Glc-6-P). Previous research has shown that the loss of PGM2, the major isoform of PGM, in the context of galactose-grown cells results in a slow growth phenotype and altered ratio of Glc-1-P to Glc-6-P. Interestingly, the pgm2∆ mutant also exhibits defects in calcium homeostasis, including altered calcium uptake and accumulation and sensitivity to the calcineurin inhibitor, cyclosporin A. One area of interest in understanding the defects which occur due to loss of PGM2 is to investigate the changes in gene expression which occur in the pgm2∆ mutant relative to the wt strain. Previous research using RNA Seq and DESEQ-2 analysis identified that there is differential expression between strains. Further analysis using K-means clustering and DREME analysis suggested that these changes might be coordinately regulated by specific transcription factors. The current working model of the lab suggests that these changes in gene expression are mediated through hyperactivation of stress responses. This study seeks to characterize the role of the HOG (high osmolarity glycerol) and CWI (cell wall integrity) MAPK cascades in mediating the defects observed in the pgm2∆ mutant, specifically by observing the role of downstream targets from both of these pathways on gene expression changes within the mutant cell.
Valery Piachonkina

Hometown: Castro Valley, California

Major: History

Future Plans: Gap year and then Graduate School

Thesis Director: Dr. Felix Harcourt

Committee Members: Dr. Claire Wolnisty & Dr. Julie Hempel

Thesis Title: Bad Neighbor: A Historical Analysis of Operation Wetback in Texas

In Summer 1954, the Eisenhower administration launched a mass-militarized deportation campaign called “Operation Wetback” which primarily targeted undocumented Mexican migrant workers living in the American Southwest. Directed by former military general Joseph May Swing, the campaign ostensibly sought to replace undocumented Mexican migrant workers with legalized bracero contract workers in order to soothe the varying social, economic, and political concerns of the manufactured migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border during the early 1950s – a period ridden with Cold War anxieties and Red Scare paranoia. In 2016, former President Donald Trump publicly endorsed Eisenhower’s deportation program during a Republican Primary Debate. This research specifically examines the deportation campaign within the state of Texas as well as the indirect influences of the Cold War on the development of the program – ultimately revealing the racist and nativist sentiments prevalent within our country’s immigration and deportation policies.
Isbah Plumber

Hometown: Plano, Texas

Major: Public Health

Future Plans: Working as a Marketing Analyst for AdComp Systems

Thesis Director: Dr. Saritha Bangara

Committee Members: Dr. Kerri-Anne Mitchell & Dr. Bradley Smucker

Thesis Title: Using Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System 2018 Data to Assess the Association Between Insufficient Sleep and Cardiovascular Disease

Background: Sleep deprivation is defined as sleeping for less than 7 hours in a 24 hour time period and is extremely prevalent in the US, as 35% of adults regularly experience sleep deprivation (CDC, 2016). Sleep deprivation has been seen in the past to be correlated with chronic and infectious diseases. For example, in 2014, the CDC found that 4.7% of people sleeping <7 hours suffered from coronary heart disease as opposed to 3.4% of people who received ≥7 hours of sleep, and 4.8% of sleep deprived people suffer from heart attack as opposed to 3.4% of those who are not sleep deprived. Aims(s)/Objective(s): Data from the 2018 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance system (BRFSS), a public dataset collected by the CDC, will be used to determine the sociodemographic characteristics and health risk behaviors associated with sleep deprivation among 18-65 year old adult participants in the United States. Methods: Statistical analyses will be performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science) to explore variables including age, sex, marital status, education level, employment, weight, income level, alcohol consumption, and physical consumption. Practical Implications: The results of this study may be used to inform the development of programs that focus on ensuring Americans get adequate and quality sleep. Disparities can be reduced within various demographics with information on the causes of sleep deprivation and an emphasis on the importance of sleep.
Ruthann Helen Schmiege

Hometown: Tyler, Texas

Major: Biology with a Concentration in Cellular and Molecular

Future Plans: Ruthann plans to pursue a master’s degree in genetic counseling

Thesis Director: Dr. David Aiello

Committee Members: Dr. Kelli Carroll & Dr. James Hebda

Thesis Title: *Investigating the role of RNA polymerase II stalling in spt4Δ-mediated rescue of Saccharomyces cerevisiae mutants lacking PGM2*

In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the enzyme phosphoglucomutase (PGM) allows the cell to interconvert glucose-1-phosphate (G1P) and glucose-6-phosphate (G6P). Loss of the gene encoding for the major isoform of PGM, PGM2, causes a slow growth phenotype and an increased ratio of G1P to G6P when cells utilize galactose as their primary carbon source. In addition, the pgm2Δ strain displays calcium homeostasis defects, including sensitivity to cyclosporin A and increased calcium uptake and accumulation. Previous research in the Aiello lab has found that loss of SPT4, the nonessential component of the DSIF complex, rescues many of the pgm2Δ mutant growth defects, but the altered ratio of G1P to G6P is unaffected. DSIF is known to play an important role in promoting transcription elongation in *S. cerevisiae*, but evidence also suggests that Spt4 may play a role in negatively regulating transcription of certain genes. Previous research indicates that the loss of SPT4 may relieve pausing of RNA polymerase II at certain gene loci, resulting in an increase in gene expression. This study aims to investigate whether Spt4 mediates increased pausing in the pgm2Δ mutant, as well as whether select genes that show higher expression in the pgm2Δspt4Δ strain play a role in the spt4Δ-mediated rescue of pgm2Δ phenotypes.
Brett Ryan Skinner

Hometown: Flower Mound, Texas

Major: Engineering Physics

Future Plans: Brett plans to pursue a PhD in astronomy.

Thesis Director: Dr. David Whelan

Committee Members: Dr. Huy V. Nguyen & Dr. Andra Petean

Thesis Title: *Searching for an Intrinsic Difference Between Delta Scuti Stars In and Out of Binaries*

Algol-type binary systems are semi-detached systems with active mass transfer from the evolved secondary onto the young and bright primary. Delta Scuti stars are stars that pulsate and exhibit a variable brightness over time. Often, these Delta Scuti variables are the primary star in the Algol system, creating a new class of binaries called the oscillating Eclipsing Algols (oEA). Our goal is to study the Delta Scuti stars that are in binaries and compare them to Delta Scuti that are singular to determine if there is an intrinsic difference between the two. If we can measure this intrinsic difference, we can begin to explain and understand what about the binary Delta Scuti is causing an observational difference compared to a singular Delta Scuti. Our research included analysis of X-ray luminosities, pulsation frequencies, Strömgren photometry, Geneva photometry, and rotational velocities. We found that the singular and binary Delta Scuti had the same X-ray luminosities, photometric colors, and rotational velocities. The only difference between the Delta Scuti singles and binaries was their pulsation overtones. The Delta Scuti in binaries pulsate at higher overtones than the singles. We believe this is possibly due to the Delta Scuti being tidally locked to its companions and driving higher overtones of pulsation. Further analysis can shed more light on the nature of Delta Scuti in and out of binaries to determine the effects and causes of intrinsic similarities and differences.
Hibernating species typically undergo extreme cycles of fat accumulation and loss throughout the year as they maintain their normal circannual rhythm of euthermia and torpor. With feeding patterns changing drastically during the year, there have been several papers detailing subsequent seasonal differences in gut microbiota structure and diversity according to a standard hibernation cycle. However, little research has been done to evaluate if other factors, such as dietary fat content, have any direct effects on the microbial gut community structure in hibernating species. In this project we are using behavioral (food intake), morphological (body mass and composition), and molecular techniques to evaluate the physiological effects of a high-fat diet on our animal of study, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*) to observe potential differences that emerge as wild-caught animals are transitioned to differing lab diets. Our experiment (n = 11) found that there were no significant differences in food intake overall in food intake, but female squirrels tended to eat more especially when on a high fat diet. Although, the difference in food intake in females did not necessarily translate to differences in fat accumulation, as there was no significant change between diet type or sex. Gut microbiome structure was seen to differ between diet groups, specifically in the phyla Firmicutes and Bacteroidetes, but further research would need to be done to look at specific differences within other phyla such as Verrucomicrobia.
Claudia Marie Theriot

Hometown: Boerne, Texas

Major: History

Future Plans: Master of Arts in Teaching with the Austin Teaching Program

Thesis Director: Dr. Claire Wolnisty

Committee Members: Dr. Erin Copple Smith & Dr. Felix Harcourt

Thesis Title: *More Than a Woman: The Legacy of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison*

The term ‘year of the woman’ began circulating around the U.S. in 1992 when voters elected 119 women to Congress. A year later, Texas joined the triumphant rise of women in national politics with the election of Kay Bailey Hutchinson, the first female senator of Texas. When she entered the U.S. political stage as the only female Texas representative in Congress and was tasked with problems that would face the entire country, Senator Bailey Hutchison prioritized gendered issues. This was not Senator Bailey Hutchison’s first time being where her contemporaries highlighted her as the only woman in a sea of men, though it was an opportunity where she felt she could create the most change. Texas and women were a driving force behind the decisions that Senator Hutchinson made in office and a large reason as to why she did not let partisan issues get in her way. Working as a bi-partisan, united front, the women of the Senate brought about awareness and change for issues their male colleagues were not aware of, such as spousal retirement funds, free breast cancer screenings, and single-sex public education. My four-chapter thesis, rooted in my oral interview conducted with Ambassador Bailey Hutchinson in October, 2021, along with primary and secondary sources, argues that Senator Bailey Hutchinson’s time in the Senate defied assumptions concerning women in places of power, specifically in Texas, and furthered women’s issues at the national level.
Olivia Leeann Trusty

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

Majors: Biology & Theatre with a minor in Education

Future Plans: Olivia is pursuing her Masters of Arts in Teaching through the Austin Teacher Program at Austin College. She plans to graduate with her Masters in May 2023 and begin a career in inspiring her love of science and creativity in her future students.

Thesis Director: Dr. Kirk Everist

Committee Members: Elizabeth Banks & Dr. Julia Shahid

Thesis Title: *The T in 'STEM' Stands for Theatre*

At the surface, theatre and science appear to have very little in common, as theatre moves the audience through passion and emotion, while science is grounded in reason and evidence. This study reflects on the connections between science and theatre by analyzing theatre through the objective scientific lens and analyzing science through the introspective and subjective theatrical lens. First, I examined director, Zoe Crews’ production process of Circle Mirror Transformation by Annie Baker at Austin College in 2021 through the scientific method which created benefits and limitations to the creative and reflective process. I also examine the use of rehearsal reports as lab notebooks, as the stage manager for this production. Lastly, I examine how improv works as a method of experimentation. Plays about science have historically focused on scientific ideas or the male figures behind them. In the last 10 years, more plays about female scientists, their work, and their lives have emerged. These plays illuminate untold stories that provide recognition for the overlooked and forgotten. However, these stories come with a price. Authenticity and truth are sometimes sacrificed for dramatic effect and plot. While the connections between science and theatre are more than what meets the eye, they require careful balance so that one discipline does not overwhelm the other.
Honors Nominees 2022-2023

**Anthropology**
Amna Haque
Cayden Michael Griffith
Rebecca Kate Willeford

**Biology**
Katherine Elizabeth McBroom
Adam Justin Myers
Shruti Veera Raghavan
Sydney Hope Versen

**Chemistry**
Beau Christopher Beshires
Anika Katherine Chand
Austin Bradley Rue
Rebecca Annis Tobias

**Classics**
Zachary Roderick Griffith

**Computer Science**
Kate Leslie Askew*
Dylan Anthony Williams*

**Economics/Business Administration**
Avery Jade Atencio
Peter Leo Dubois
Nathan Daniel Reed
Kristen Jean Worley

**English**
Addison Victoria Norman
Larry Ramirez Quintana*

**German**
Larry Ramirez Quintana*

**History**
Alejandra Salinas Garza
Clara Michelle Harper
James Christopher Truitt

**Mathematics**
Kate Leslie Askew*
Maya Yongshuo Leisey
Tate Parker Nelson
Dylan Anthony Williams*

**Music**
Lillian Faith Boessen
Hannah Elizabeth Herron

**Neuroscience**
Roopika Menta Kishore

**Political Science**
Judith Juarez
Cassandra Silva Salas

**Psychology**
Lora Vaughan
Caroline Fowler

**Public Health**
Jedidiah Lim
Katherine Grace Cox
Rebecca A. Osei

**Spanish**
Diana Gomez
Mariagisse Morales

*Nominated in two departments*
Alpha Chi is a national honorary society devoted to the promotion and recognition of scholarship effective among the undergraduate students in the academic division of the colleges and universities in the United States. Each year the faculty elects to the Alpha Chi membership the appropriate number of qualified candidates. Candidates for Alpha Chi are elected from the top ten percent of the senior class and the top five percent of the junior class by grade point average.

**ALPHA CHI**  
National Scholastic Honor Society

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Valery Piachonkina*</th>
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<td>Avery Jade Atencio*</td>
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<td>Shaina Banh*</td>
<td>Katie Gudrun King</td>
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*2021-2022 New Members
The Phi Beta Kappa Society, the oldest academic honor society, has a mission of fostering and recognizing excellence in undergraduate liberal arts and sciences. Selection to the Austin College chapter is by vote of faculty Phi Beta Kappa keyholders based on scholarly achievement, broad cultural interest, and good character. New members are selected from the graduating class each year with attention given to their overall scholarship with weight given to both the academic record and the breadth and proportion of the candidate’s program demonstrated by the number and variety of courses taken outside the major. Candidates display a spirit of intellectual adventure, which is manifest in many ways including, but not limited to independent research, scholarly activity, significant advanced work outside the major, and significant coursework across all three divisions of the college.

PHI BETA KAPPA
National Undergraduate Honor Society

Yasmine Jinan Bukhari*
Taylor S Dornseifer*
Shannon Claire Fagen*
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Hersh N Patel*
Valery Piachonkina*
Ruthann Helen Schmiege*
Brett R Skinner*
Emma Alexandra Solis*
Harsha Tamtam*
Kathy Vi Tran*

*2021-2022 New Members