



2019-2020 SENIOR AWARDS

BIBLICAL STUDIES | TIMOTHY 2:15

Kevin Hooke

Kevin's honor as an excellent student in ACU's Biblical Studies program is well deserved, and it was my honor to have him as a student. Kevin's desire to learn the Scriptures goes far beyond the classroom. During his time at ACU, he and I met frequently to discuss the deeper things of the Bible and theology. I cannot wait to see how God uses his education and personal gifts to be a leader in the church and to transform culture with truth.

Jeff Phillips, M.Div., Assistant Professor

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES | THESSALONIANS 2:4

Ryan Minner

I have never had a student whose love for God was more apparent. From the first time I met Ryan, his desire to serve and be pleasing to the Lord was evident. His eagerness to be in class and to grow in the knowledge of the Bible made him a pleasure to teach. Ryan is the perfect example of the type of student for whom ACU's Christian Ministries program was developed, and his accolades in the program are well earned.

Jeff Phillips, M.Div., Assistant Professor

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | PROVERBS 15:4

Grace Sunderland

While at ACU Grace maintained a 4.0 GPA. In addition to superior academic excellence, Grace is a compassionate and caring person who seeks to serve and care for those around her. This leads her to have a God-given interest in the emotional and psychological health of others. Grace is curious and loves to explore the nature of human behavior as it relates to her faith and devotion to Christ. Thank you

Grace for your desire to be used in transforming culture with truth.

John Hinson, M.A., Assistant Professor of Behavioral Health

BIOLOGY | GENESIS 1:1

Todd Furr

Ever since first encountering Todd it was obvious he was a very serious student as well as an athlete. He persevered through a multitude of challenging courses and succeeded in his goal of being admitted to medical school. Soon we shall be addressing him as Dr. Furr, his future patients will be blessed to have him as their physician, and I will be thrilled to claim him as a colleague.

Joseph Kezele, M.D., Associate Professor of Biology

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | COLOSSIANS 3:23

Sarenn Selzer

I have had the distinct pleasure of having Sarenn as a student. Sarenn was more than the ideal student; in an age of personality, Sarenn exhibited great character. Additionally, she achieved the highest grades and my most profound respect. Sarenn demonstrated outstanding leadership and maintained a clear sense of purpose. She was an excellent student and an asset to her fellow students. Sarenn is an outstanding researcher, writer, and critical thinker. She is a natural leader, a respectful take-charge person who successfully develops plans and implements them. It is with great pleasure and pride that I am privileged to present this award to Sarenn.

Edward A. Clavell, MDiv., DMin., Dean of Academic Affairs

COMMUNICATION | 1 PETER 1:13

Sarah Carrell

In the spring of her junior year, Sarah broke her foot playing soccer. It was a traumatic injury requiring surgery and extended healing.

She was doing an internship that semester and would not be able to commute. Instead of making excuses or asking for special treatment, she contacted me and asked how to modify her internship so she could finish. This dedication to her studies shows why Sarah is the Outstanding Communication Studies student--when faced with difficulties, she never made excuses, but met them head on and found a way to overcome those problems.

Paul Creasman, Ph.D., Professor, Communication Studies Department Chair

STUDENT AWARDS

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION | ROMANS 12:6-7

Tessa Williams

Those who know Tessa say she has the ability to make everyone feel included, has a great sense of humor, and exudes warmth and joy. Tessa seamlessly integrates what she has learned at ACU to teach her students. Isn't that a great example of a Christian teacher? Tessa is a consistent, creative, intelligent, incredibly diligent, godly woman who works hard to help her students become all God has created them to be. Tessa, thank you for using your gifts to shine for God!

Linnea Lyding, Ed.D., Assistant Dean and Head of the Shelly Roden School of Education

SECONDARY EDUCATION | ROMANS 12:6-7

Jessica McDermitt

Some teachers are made and some are born. Jessica is both. She has taken the talent and passion that God has given her and set her mind on learning about education for the purpose of changing the lives of young adults. People who know Jessica say that she uses her creativity and giftedness to make education innovative and engaging. At the same time, Jessica meticulously builds relationships with her students so that they also become passionate about English! Jessica would say, "as I foster students' critical thinking and literacy skills, I also foster their ability to access everything God created to reveal Himself."

Linnea Lyding, Ed.D., Assistant Dean and Head of the Shelly Roden School of Education

FAMILY STUDIES | PROVERBS 22:6

Sarah Crank

Sarah graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in Family Studies, concentrating in Marriage and Family. Sarah also completed minors in behavioral health, biblical and theological studies, and political science. She excelled in the completion of two internships and assisted Dr. Tracy Munsil and Dr. George Barna at ACU's Cultural Research Center. In class, Sarah served as a role model for a strong work ethic, engagement, curiosity, kindness, and Christ-like humility. Currently, Sarah uses her diverse education and talents working for the Arizona Attorney General's office and plans to attend law school.

Carolyn Pela, Ph.D., Assistant Dean and Head of the School of Arts and Humanities

MUSIC | CHRONICLES 25:7

Ethan Kavaney

Ethan is a committed and disciplined individual. His focus and hard work have made him an excellent musician on multiple instruments. Ethan is mechanically and artistically intuitive and has become extremely proficient with music and media technologies. He is teachable, curious, faithful, and always willing to help. Ethan, it is our privilege to present this award to you!

Gerald Fercho, M.A., Assistant Professor, Music Department Chair

PSYCHOLOGY | THESSALONIANS 5:21

Alexis Honeycutt

Alexis completed her degree with an overall GPA of 3.7. Alexis demonstrated a strong commitment to the areas of Psychology, Criminal Justice, and the integration of Christian Worldview. She displayed distinctive leadership as a student-athlete and became one of the leaders on the softball field. To classmates, players, faculty, and coaches, Alexis demonstrated enthusiasm, excellent communication skills, and professional demeanor.

Benjamin Pundit, N.M.D., Assistant Professor, Behavioral and Social Sciences Department Chair

POLITICAL SCIENCE | PSALM 33:12

Riley Akre

Riley is an outstanding student, earning a 4.0. Riley was among the first students to participate in the department's new minor, Economic Liberty and Politics, helping to establish a strong foundation for future ACU students to learn about and advocate for economic liberty in their generation. When asked about her qualities as a student, her professors uniformly point to her "very positive attitude and her enthusiasm for learning." She always displays self-discipline, great attention to detail, and passion about what she believes. Riley is an individual of deep compassion, great ability, and a strong mature faith. Riley is acting on her passion for the unborn as a volunteer for

Voices for the Voiceless, a next-generation pro-life group founded by a fellow POL ACU graduate. Congratulations, Riley!

Tracy F. Munsil, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Executive Director of the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University

SIGMA LAMBDA (SALT AND LIGHT) AWARDS

MATTHEW 5:13-16

Richard Horner | Bryan Levine | Cameron Sharp

This most prestigious award is presented each year to the student(s) who best exemplifies student leadership, service, and academic excellence. Sigma Lambda means Salt and Light, and the award is based on the scripture from Matthew 5:13-16. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARDS

PSALM 100:2

Micah Hendricks

Micah Hendricks has excelled in academics and has been involved in service projects in the community and through his church. He has exhibited true servant leadership here at ACU!

Pastors Tim Reed and Jason Hubbard

Elizabeth Kelley

Elizabeth Kelley is a strong academic student and found much success as a leader on our tennis team. She has a heart for the world, serving on several mission trips. Her heart to serve others has been evident to all during her years at ACU!

Pastors Tim Reed and Jason Hubbard

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Payton Carli

Payton modeled servant leadership and exemplary work ethic as a student-athlete. Payton's hard work earned her a 3.96 GPA in the Secondary Education program. Serving as captain of the softball team, Payton earned All-GSAC honors while leading the Firestorm in batting average, runs, stolen bases and runs batted in. In addition to her commitments in the classroom and on the field, Payton served as a residence assistant, small group leader, and volunteered at many campus events.

Dr. Peter T. Dryer, Director of Athletics

Brent Smith

Brent demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, athletic accomplishment, and campus and community leadership as a student-athlete on the baseball team. Brent earned a 3.94 GPA in Business Administration. His athletic accomplishments include All-American Honorable Mention, GSAC Hamlow Award recipient, GSAC Scholar-Athlete, and the 2019 NAIA A.O. Duer National Scholarship Award recipient in recognition of his outstanding scholarship, citizenship and character. He served as a campus student leader, residence assistant, and led Bible studies on campus and at his local church.

Dr. Peter T. Dryer, Director of Athletics

THE STOLE OF GRATITUDE

The Stole of Gratitude is worn with the regalia during the commencement ceremony. After the ceremony, the new graduate presents the stole to someone who provided extraordinary help or support, like parents, relatives, pastor, coach, faculty or mentors who have helped with wisdom, words of support, or with financial assistance.



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