



2020-2021 SENIOR AWARDS

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES | PROVERBS 15:4

Jacob Reed

Jacob Reed is the outstanding student for the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences. He is graduating with a degree in Behavioral Health. Jacob has a strong interest in integrating biblical faith with a knowledge of current mental health practice. He has a desire to serve others in their spiritual and emotional growth. Jacob will complete a one-year internship with the International Justice Mission before furthering his education in the field of mental health. Congratulations, Jacob.

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

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES | II TIMOTHY 2:15

Michael Rogers

The recipient of the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies Outstanding Student Award for 2021 is Michael Rogers. His professors are proud of him and that he is a graduate of the Biblical and Theological studies program. He represents what is best in the department as he truly loves God with all his heart, soul, and mind. During his time at ACU he has shown an outstanding work ethic and leadership within the Biblical and Theological Studies department and to the greater ACU student body. Upon graduating from ACU, Michael will be attending Phoenix Seminary where he will be pursuing a Master of Divinity degree in Biblical Communication.

Kyle D. DiRoberts, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | COLOSSIANS 3:23

Emily Hobrock

The Outstanding Student Award for the Department of Business Administration is being awarded with the utmost confidence to Ms. Emily Hobrock. Her professors have had the honor of teaching Emily throughout her educational journey here at ACU and can wholeheartedly validate her academic dedication, her participation in extracurricular activities, and her compassionate student engagement on our campus. She is a consummate leader, a selfless volunteer, and an asset to this University. Ms. Hobrock understands what it means to show up prepared, and in doing so, she has used her extra time to assist other students scholastically. Emily knows what it means to serve and does so as we are called to by the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES | PROVERBS 22:6

Felicia Harris

The recipient of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies Outstanding Student Award for 2021 is Felicia Harris. Felicia is graduating *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in Family Studies and a concentration in Child Life. She also completed minors in behavioral health and biblical and theological studies. Beyond her exceptional academic performance, Felicia has served the Human Development and Family Studies department by modeling a strong work ethic, intentional spiritual leadership, respect and compassion for others, and a humble and teachable heart. Furthermore, she has served ACU through athletics and several student leadership positions. Felicia will be attending graduate school pursuing a master's in counseling.

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

MUSIC | I CHRONICLES 25:7

Devon Pasko

Devon is graduating with a music degree in Modern Worship. Devon has displayed tremendous musical and spiritual growth during his tenure at ACU. Because of his commitment to musicianship, student body responsibilities, and spiritual leadership, Devon was awarded the Embers Worship Leader position. He is a natural leader who aspires to excellence himself and encourages others to follow. He is a gifted songwriter who discerns unspoken sentiment and forms it into poetry of musical delights. Devon is a kind and thoughtful friend.

He is also a man of excellent character and is driven with a desire to know God and serve Him well.

Gerald Fercho, M.A., Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Music

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT | PSALM 33:12

Rachel Anklam

Rachel has been very active on campus, serving as a resident assistant, an officer and president of the Pre-Law Society, and a political science teaching assistant. She has also worked with the Cultural Research Center and has provided leadership for numerous student activities. Rachel's capstone project presentation, "The Free Market Solution to Global Poverty," was selected as one of the five outstanding video presentations at the ACU Academic Symposium. She is the first student to complete the minor in Economic Liberty and Politics. Rachel combines academic gifting with her strong faith. She serves in so many areas on campus with commitment, encouragement, and compassion. As one of her professors wrote, "As a gifted student, she is a leader in the classroom and the ACU community. She is diligent and has a well-grounded biblical worldview. She represents the vision of ACU to raise a generation of Christian leaders to impact our world. As an alumnus, she will have a distinctive career and demonstrate the value of an ACU education." Rachel anticipates attending law school after first working with the Arizona Attorney General's office.

Thomas Campbell, B.A., M.A., J.D., Assistant Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science and Government

SCIENCE | GENESIS 1:1

Emma Stevens

Emma graduated *summa cum laude*, which is quite an accomplishment. Two qualities that have been consistently impressive about Emma are her desire to not only know but understand what biology is about and her willingness to go out of her way to help others do the same. For two years she has been the best tutor we have ever had for General Chemistry. She will be missed dearly as she graduates and moves on to the next stage of her life. She has been a blessing to all.

Warren Pettitt, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Science

DR. SHELLY RODEN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION | ROMANS 12:6-7

Megan Gessel

Megan Gessel exemplifies a passion for students, strong educational pedagogy, and knowledge of child development. Even in the completely online teaching environment that she was in this fall, she had her young students excited and responding to what they were learning with enthusiasm. The combination of her knowledge and passion creates a beautiful space for young students to explore and learn. Her desire to make a difference in the lives of students is the reason she never stops learning. She navigated the difficulties of taking over as a substitute teacher online with humor and grace. Her students loved her!

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

Rachel Johnson

Rachel Johnson embodies the educational philosophy of GRIT. Her perseverance and passion led her to seek a dual degree in Secondary Education - Physical Education and Elementary Education. This meant completing two different student teaching practicums. One was in high school physical education and the other was in middle school mathematics. She did all of this while also working and finishing other course work. Rachel would come to the faculty offices after her day in the classroom to seek mentorship and ways of improving her own instruction. Rachel exemplifies the core values of Arizona Christian University's pillars: Faith, Influence, Relationship and Excellence.

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

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM FINALISTS

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Emily Hobrock

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Victoria Armenta | Brett Johnson | Maddie LaPierre | Lexi Noriega | Jake Reed

MUSIC

Alyssa Cline | Jazmin Garven

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Rachel Anklam

SIGMA LAMBDA (SALT AND LIGHT) AWARDS

MATTHEW 5:13-16

Emily Hobrock | Travis Walker

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

Alyssa Cline

Alyssa has excelled in her service in the music department. She has come alongside many underclassmen and is always willing and available to serve in any capacity. She is a true gift to the student body at ACU!

Jason Hubbard, Ph.D., Campus Pastor

Jarett Hamby

Jarett's exemplary service is evident both to the student body and faculty at ACU. He is a servant to many on the baseball field, as a chapel servant, and in the community. He lives to serve others and all for the glory of Jesus.

Jason Hubbard, Ph.D., Campus Pastor

OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Emma Stevens

Emma Stevens has modeled excellence in both academics and athletics throughout her time on campus. As a competitor, Emma is a three-time NAIA All-American national qualifier in multiple events in the pool. Emma also served as a youth leader at Scottsdale Bible Church at weekly gatherings and youth camp events. Additionally, Emma is a chemistry tutor on campus and consistently serves in a variety of community service projects through institutional ministry partners. She earned recognition as an NAIA Scholar Athlete with a 4.0 GPA as a biology major.

Dr. Peter T. Dryer, Director of Athletics

Matthew Totah

Matt Totah had a remarkable student-athlete career at Arizona Christian University. As a captain of the Firestorm football team, Totah was a spiritual leader and known to be one of the hardest workers in the program. A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Totah earned Sooner Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete and Academic All-Conference honors in his junior and senior seasons. As a four-year offensive lineman for the football team, Totah worked his way into the starting lineup during his junior season before starting in all 11 games during the Firestorm's record-breaking 2020-21 season. Totah also competed as a member of the track and field team at ACU.

Totah earned a 3.83 GPA in Business Administration.

Dr. Peter T. Dryer, Director of Athletics



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