

## **Innocents Society**

### **Thirteen Outstanding Juniors Selected for 2014–2015 Membership in Innocents Society**

#### **Joe Farley**

Joe Farley, son of James and Carla Farley of Omaha, is a mechanical engineering major. Joe is the president of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, president of the Pi Tau Sigma Honor Society, and a trumpet player in the Big Red Express Athletic Pep Band. Joe also works as a student adviser for the Honors Program, and as a teaching assistant for the mechanical engineering department. This summer, he will be interning at John Deere. Joe is a UNL Regents Scholar, a Narvin O. Whitmann Scholar, active in the Honors Program, and is on the College of Engineering Dean's List.

#### **Brooke Wissler**

Brooke Wissler, daughter of Jerry and Jennifer Wissler of Auburn, is a pre-dentistry student studying nutrition science. Brooke is philanthropy chair of Chi Omega sorority, a foundation development chair and senior counselor in the Nebraska Human Resources Institute, and a UNL Dance Marathon family representative. Brooke also volunteers and teaches for Art Planet, and manages her own online business, Night Owl Hook. Brooke is a Regents Scholar, a member of the UNL Honors Program, and is on the College of Education and Human Sciences Dean's List.

#### **Jessica Meis**

Jessica Meis, daughter of Clyde and Rosemary Meis of Grand Island, is a hospitality restaurant and tourism management major with a double minor in business and leadership and communication. Jessica is president of the University Program Council, president of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, and a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron, Pi Eta Sigma, and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies. She volunteers at Catholic Social Services as an ESL teacher, works as a Suite Staff Host in Memorial Stadium and volunteers at various events on campus. Jessica is on the College of Education and Human Sciences Dean's List.

#### **Zach Foster**

Zach Foster, son of Steve and Trish Foster of Papillion, is a chemical engineering major. Zach is president of the Interfraternity Council, corresponding secretary of the Engineering Student Advisory Board, public relations chair of Engineering Ambassadors and a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. He is also involved with his fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and is an undergraduate student worker in the Biological Process Development Facility. Zach is a Chancellor's Scholar, a member of the UNL Honors Program, and has been named to both the College of Engineering Dean's List and Franco's List.

#### **Sarah Jo Lambert**

Sarah Jo Lambert, daughter of Dr. Matthew and Maureen Lambert of Lubbock, TX, is an advertising and public relations major and English and Spanish double minor. Sarah is the career and personal development chair of Chi Omega Sorority, PR director and plans book editor for the National Student Advertising Competition, on the University Health Center Student Advisory Board, and an intern at the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Sarah is also a volunteer and translator at El Centro De Las Americas and a motivational speaker for TEDx. She was a 2012 Olympic Torchbearer in England and is on the College of Journalism's Dean's List.

### **Jeffrey Story**

Jeffrey Story, son of Chuck and Kathy Story of Omaha, is a political science and English major, with intentions of attending law school following graduation. Jeffrey is the outgoing external vice president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and the vice president of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, in addition to being a member of Nebraska Human Resources Institute, Arts and Sciences Student Advisory Board, and Dance Marathon. He works through the school year as a runner for a law firm and will be an orientation leader for New Student Enrollment this summer. He is also a member of the UNL Honors Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List.

### **Renee Donner**

Renee Donner, daughter of Mark and Cheryl Donner of Lincoln, is an anthropology, pre-medicine major. Renee is the co-founder and co-president of MEDLIFE, the new member educator for her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, and a family representative for Dance Marathon. Additionally, she is a UCARE participant, an Order of Omega member, a Humanities in Medicine Scholar, a Regents Scholar, a member of the Arts and Sciences Deans Scholar Society and is on the Arts and Sciences Dean's List. Renee is currently studying abroad in Ecuador and will spend her summer researching dental health and nutrition in Ethiopia.

### **Eric Heidemann**

Eric Heidemann, son of Mark and Teresa Heidemann of Seward, is a pre-medicine student with a major in anthropology and a minor in humanities in medicine. Eric co-founded and is co-president of the UNL MEDLIFE Chapter, a medical missions organization. Last year, he traveled and volunteered on a medical mission trip with MEDLIFE to Lima, Peru. Eric also started a Bible study on campus, is heavily involved with his church in Omaha, and is a member of the University's premiere all-male a cappella group, "The Bathtub Dogs." This past summer, he served as a New Student Enrollment Orientation leader. Eric is a member of the University Honors Program and is on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List.

### **Steve Dosskey**

Steve Dosskey, son of Milda Vaitkus and Mike Dosskey of Lincoln, is a computer science major with business and mathematics minors. Steve is the president of The Iron N, and volunteers extensively with local high school students through his work as a college leader with Young Life, volunteer staffer with Launch Leadership, and

volunteer high school cross country and soccer coach. Steve is a student in the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management and the UNL Honors Program, and is on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List.

### **Olivia Adam**

Olivia Adam, daughter of Mark and Grace Adam of Wilcox, is a dietetics major and Spanish minor. Olivia previously served as vice president of risk management and is currently serving as the sisterhood chair of the Chi Omega sorority. She serves on the Navigators leadership team and volunteers at El Centro de Las Americas as a tutor. In addition, she is on the speaker selection team for TEDx Lincoln events and is a member of the Operations staff for The Big Event. Olivia is a Regents Scholar, a member of the UNL Honors Program, and is on the College of Education and Human Sciences Dean's List.

### **Larissa Krenk**

Larissa Krenk, daughter of Jeff and Pam Krenk of Seward, is a biological sciences major with the intent of attending optometry school. Larissa is mentor for the William H. Thompson Learning Community and also co-chairs their Community Service Committee. She is involved in her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, and is a member of the pre-optometry club. Larissa is a Regents Scholar, a recipient of the Susan Thompson Buffet Scholarship, and is on the Dean's List.

### **Brittney Moriarty**

Brittney Moriarty, daughter of Kevin and Meshael Moriarty of Holdrege, is a political science and English major. She is the president of Alpha Lambda Delta, an Honors Program Peer Mentor leader, and a member of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, Undergraduate Library Student Advisory Board, Phi Eta Sigma, and the Pre-Law Club. In addition, she volunteers with Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters. Brittney is a member of the UNL Honors Program and is on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List.

### **Drew Conley**

Drew Conley, son of Bill and Silvia Conley of Omaha, is a film and new media major. Drew is a student ambassador for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, president of Cinema 16, and a resident assistant. Drew is a UNL Regents Scholar, on the College of Fine and Performing Arts Dean's List, and is also a member of the University Singers and "Cornfed," the Men's Ultimate Club Team.

## **Mortar Board**

**Twenty-eight Outstanding Juniors Selected for  
2014–2015 Membership in Mortar Board**

### **Mikaela Balfany**

Mikaela Balfany, daughter of Bob and Becky Balfany of Lincoln, is majoring in actuarial science with minors in math and finance. Mikaela is on the Scarlets Dance Team, treasurer of Chi Omega, and a member of the Roper Project for the Nebraska Human Resource Institute. She is a Dance Marathon Family Representative Committee Chair, a College of Business Administration Ambassador, and an intern at Ameritas. Mikaela is a Regents Scholar, member of the Honors Program, and on the Dean's List.

### **Andrew (Drew) Barnhart**

Andrew Barnhart, son of Carrie and Steve Barnhart of Charlotte, NC, is majoring in history and global studies with a minor in French. Andrew is a student staff leader for New Student Enrollment, corresponding secretary and former president of Delta Tau Delta, and a Greek Ambassador. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, NU Meds, and The Big Event. Andrew is a semifinalist for the Outstanding Student Leadership Award, a recipient of the Ruth Leverton Scholarship, and on the Dean's List.

### **Andrew (AJ) Blazek**

Andrew Blazek, son of Jean Hearn and Pete Blazek of Omaha, is majoring in biochemistry and Spanish with a minor in mathematics. Andrew is vice president of the Honors Program Peer Mentor Leaders, vice president of the Interfraternity Council, and the vice president of communications and philanthropy chair for Sigma Phi Epsilon. He is a family representative for Dance Marathon, on the Executive Team for Huskers Against Hunger, and a Nebraska Human Resource Institute mentor. Andrew was a Sophomore Mortar Board Notable and received the Johnny Carson Scholarship and Sigma Phi Epsilon Dickey Scholarship for Balanced Men.

### **Joshua Burks**

Joshua Burks, son of Keith and Deb Burks of Lincoln, is majoring in nutrition science with a minor in psychology. Joshua is the ritual chair for Beta Theta Pi, music director of Bathtub Dogs, and Leadership Development Project Co-Chair for the Nebraska Human Resource Institute. He is a family representative of Dance Marathon and part of FOCUS Greek. Joshua was also a teaching assistant for ALEC 102.

### **Kayla Busboom**

Kayla Busboom, daughter of Michael and Doreen Busboom of Pickrell, is majoring in hospitality, restaurant, and tourism management with a minor in agriculture leadership and communications. Kayla is the Panhellenic Vice President of Public Relations, secretary of Hospitality Student Development Organization, and serves on the Scarlet Guard Board of Directors. She is a Dance Marathon Family Representative and a Greek Ambassador. Kayla is a Nebraska Admirals Scholar, Pepsi Service Scholar, and Panhellenic Spirit Scholar.

### **Jessica Chekal**

Jessica Chekal, daughter of John and Eileen Chekal of Omaha, is majoring in biochemistry with minors in chemistry, mathematics, and psychology. Jessica is a

research assistant in the biochemistry department, an ambassador for the University Honors Program, and a volunteer at St. Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center. She is a member of the Certificate of Civic Engagement Scholars Program, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Honors Program. Jessica is a Regents Scholar, Nebraska Top Scholar, and recipient of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Scholarship.

### **Dorothy Chen**

Dorothy Chen, daughter of Yonghong Zhang and Huaxian Chen of Lincoln, is majoring in chemical engineering. Dorothy is an executive officer for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, a UCARE research assistant, a member of the Engineering Student Advisory Board, and a University Health Center Wellness Advocate. She is a Regents Scholar, a Hemsworth Endowment for Excellence Recipient, and a Mortar Board Jayne Wade Anderson Scholarship Recipient.

### **Emily Davis**

Emily Davis, daughter of Ted and Roxanne Davis of Elkhorn, is majoring in biochemistry with minors in math, chemistry, biology, and Spanish. Emily is president of Alpha Omicron Pi, an Arts and Sciences Senator for ASUN, and an Honors Intern for the FBI. She is a UCARE grant recipient and a member of Order of Omega. Emily is a Regents Top Scholar, on Franco's List, and a College of Arts and Sciences scholarship recipient.

### **Christina Guthmann**

Christina Guthmann, daughter of John and Lanette Guthmann of Omaha, is majoring in international business with minors in management, economics, and Spanish. Christina is the current president and former vice president of community service for Kappa Delta, a member of Navigators, and is the ASUN External Vice President and a former Senator, Academic Fees Advisory Committee Chair, and Freshman Campus Leadership Association Secretary for ASUN. She is a mentor for the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy, serves on the Information Technology and Services Committee, and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. Christina is a Regents Scholar and received the Clifford M. Hicks Honor Key and the College of Business Administrations Dean's Award for Academic Achievement.

### **Bryan Howard**

Bryan Howard, son of Tom and Kathi Howard of Howell, NJ, is majoring in English and theatre arts and human behavior. Bryan is the former treasurer and current president of Nebraska Masquers, an Honors Program Peer Mentor leader, and an Ambassador for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. He is a UCARE research participant, a member of the Johnny Carson School Season Selection Committee, and has performed in various productions for the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film and Theatrix. Bryan is a recipient of the Breanna J. Benjamin Undergraduate Leadership Scholarship, Mortar Board Jayne Wade Anderson Scholarship, and is on the Dean's List.

**Kevin Knudson**

Kevin Knudson, son of John and Karen Knudson of Omaha, is majoring in political science with a minor in communication studies. Kevin is the student chair of the Campus High Risk Behaviors Task Force, chaplain for Sigma Phi Epsilon, and a Nebraska Human Resource Institute mentor. He is a former senator and current ASUN president as well as a New Student Enrollment Orientation Leader. Kevin is a Regents Scholar, SigEp Tragos Quest to Greece finalist, and a member of the Honors Program.

**Shelby Kruse**

Shelby Kruse, daughter of John and Stephannie Kruse of Lincoln, is a pre-optometry student majoring in nutrition science with a minor in psychology. Shelby is president of Gamma Phi Beta, co-chair of The Big Event, and co-chair of Teenage Project for the Nebraska Human Resource Institute. She is an Honors Program Peer Mentor, a former ASUN Senator for the College of Education and Human Sciences, and a volunteer at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Shelby is a Regents Scholar, recipient of the Ardith and Anna Von Housen Scholarship, and is on the Dean's List.

**Chelsea Kubicek**

Chelsea Kubicek, daughter of Richard and Mary Kubicek of Friend, is majoring in speech-language pathology with a minor in education. Chelsea is a senior counselor and project co-chair for the Nebraska Human Resource Institute, a TeamMates Mentor, and the vice president of programming and former vice president of foundation for Delta Gamma. She is a member of the College of Education and Human Sciences Student Advisory Board, hospital visit coordinator and family representative for Dance Marathon, and participates in a FOCUS Bible study. Chelsea is a Regents Scholar, on the Dean's list, and received the Certificate of High Scholarship.

**Melissa Laughlin**

Melissa Laughlin, daughter of Robert and Janet Laughlin of Omaha, is majoring in animal science with a minor in leadership and communication. Melissa is a Nebraska Human Resource Institute mentor and co-chair of the Leadership Development Project and serves on the leadership team for Navigators. She has been a teaching assistant for ALEC 102, a UCARE research participant, and house manager of Chi Omega. Melissa is a member of the Honors Program, a semifinalist for the Outstanding Student Leadership Award, and on the Dean's List.

**Shauna Lindstedt**

Shauna Lindstedt, daughter of Ted and Deb Lindstedt of Cozad, is a pre-med student majoring in psychology with minors in biology and humanities in medicine. Shauna is former scholarship director and convention awards chairman for Kappa Alpha Theta, a Peer Mentor leader for the Honors Program, and a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor. She is a volunteer at People's City Mission Health Clinic, a member of MEDLIFE and NU Meds, a teaching assistant for PSYC 100, and a peer tutor for BIOS 206. Shauna is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Kappa Alpha

Theta Rho honor societies and a recipient of the Nebraska Achievements Scholarship.

### **Aaron Matzke**

Aaron Matzke, son of John and Beth Matzke of Lincoln, is majoring in biological systems engineering with a minor in food science. Aaron is outreach committee chair for Engineering Student Advisory Board, former chaplain for Beta Theta Pi, and a UCARE participant. He is a leadership team member and Bible study leader for Navigators and a member of the UNL Drumline. Aaron is an Honors Program member, on the College of Engineering Dean's List, and an American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers K.K. Barnes Undergraduate Research Paper Finalist.

### **Cassandra McKay**

Cassandra McKay, daughter of Craig and Julie McKay of Sioux Falls, SD, is majoring in mathematics and economics with a minor in Spanish. Cassandra is the ritual chair of Gamma Phi Beta, the treasurer of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, and a peer mentor. She is a member of #LNK Coding Women and the Math Club. Cassandra is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and a recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship and Irwin Dubinsky Math Scholarship.

### **Kelsey Moore**

Kelsey Moore, daughter of Brent and Lori Moore of Exeter, is majoring in human resource management. Kelsey is president of Chi Omega, a family representative for Dance Marathon, and programming chair for UNL SMILE. She is a New Student Enrollment Orientation leader and Student Staff Member, an assistant admissions Counselor in the Office of Admissions, and served on the College of Business Administrations Academic Adviser Search Committee. Kelsey is a Regents and Top Scholar, a member of the Honors Program, and on the Dean's List.

### **Rachel Morford**

Rachel Morford, daughter of Scott and Lisa Morford of Dakota Dunes, SD, is majoring in biological systems engineering. Rachel is the National Association of Engineering Student Council Planning Committee co-chair for the Engineering Student Advisory Board, an undergraduate assistant in the Pannier Research Lab, and former director of scholarship for Delta Gamma. She is a Goldwater Scholarship nominee, a UNL High Scholar, and on the Dean's List.

### **Sandy Ngo**

Sandy Ngo, daughter of Hien Ngo and Kim Lien Hoang of Lincoln, is a pre-occupational therapy student majoring in psychology with a minor in humanities in medicine. Sandy is president of Kappa Alpha Theta, a member of University Program Council, and a Collegebound Nebraska Ambassador. She is a senior counselor for the Nebraska Human Resource Institute, a Dance Marathon Morale Captain, and a lab assistant. Sandy is a UNL R.H. Rick Davis Scholar, a Susan Thompson Buffett Scholar, and a Nebraska Achievement Scholar.

**Jacob Petr**

Jacob Petr, son of Jeff and Diana Petr of Riverdale, is majoring in meteorology-climatology with minors in Spanish, math, Latin American Studies and global studies. Jacob is president of UNL Cultural Ambassadors, vice president of the UNL Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, and a member of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board. He is an officer for the Nebraska Storm Chase Team and plays alto saxophone in the Cornhusker Marching Band. Jacob is a Regents Scholar, on the Dean's List, and a recipient of the Top Scholars Award.

**Brian Richard**

Brian Richard, son of Jim and Lori Richard of Tuxedo Park, NY, is majoring in biochemistry with minors in Spanish, chemistry, and humanities in medicine. Brian is a Bible study leader, chaplain for Farmhouse, and former rank leader in the Cornhusker Marching Band. He is a Servant Team member, master of ceremonies, and Planning Team member for Cru campus ministry, a member of the Honors Program, and a research assistant. Brian is a Regents Scholar, a Degering Trust Fund Scholarship recipient, and on the Dean's List.

**Elizabeth Ripa**

Elizabeth Ripa, daughter of Daniel and Geralyn Ripa of Lincoln, is majoring in nursing. Elizabeth is a co-chair of the Roper Project for the Nebraska Human Resource Institute, a member of the University Program Counsel, and engaged in UCARE Heart Failure Research. She is former philanthropy chair and a current Standards Committee member for Gamma Phi Beta, on the Executive Board for UNMC Student Nursing Association, and a member of Order of Omega. Elizabeth is a UNMC Regents Scholar, Pepsi Scholar, and on the Dean's List.

**Damon Steinbrink**

Damon Steinbrink, son of Robert and Linda Steinbrink of Loomis, is majoring in agricultural economics. Damon is the current Vice Noble Ruler of Finance and former Vice Noble Ruler of Philanthropy and Planning for Alpha Gamma Rho. He is on the Logistics Executive Team for The Big Event and a former member of CASNR Student Advisory Board. Damon is on the Dean's List and a Neal E. Harlan Freshman Agribusiness Memorial Scholarship recipient.

**Sophia Tatum**

Sophia Tatum, daughter of Susie and Mike Tatum of LaGrange, IL, is majoring in broadcast news, journalism, and political science with minors in global security studies and economics. Sophia is an intern at CNN with Anderson Cooper 360, on the College of Journalism and Mass Communications Student Advisory Board, and the Alumni Relations Coordinator for National Broadcasting Society. She is producer and co-host of 90.3 KRNU's "Showtune Sundays," the director of research for National Security Club, and former vice president of communications for Alpha Omicron Pi. Sophia is a recipient of the Neale and Olive Copple Broadcast Scholarship and the Aaron Douglas Scholarship.



**Brian Vuu**

Brian Vuu, son of Sheila Yates-Vuu and Thang Vuu of Lincoln, is majoring in music education. Brian is a New Student Enrollment Orientation leader and a former member of the Glenn Korff School of Music Marketing and PR Coordinator Search committee. He is a section leader for the Cornhusker Marching Band and UNL Vocal Jazz, a member of the Westbrook Saxophone Quartet, and a former section leader of UNL Big Band. Brian is a semifinalist for the Outstanding Student Leadership Award, a Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts High Scholar, and on the Dean's List.

**Jessica Wright**

Jessica Wright, daughter of Jack and Jacki Wright of Sparta, WI, is majoring in psychology with minors in biochemistry and humanities in medicine. Jessica is a member of the Cross-Country and Track and Field Team, the Althetes-2-Athletes mentoring program, and the Honors Program. She is a Pediatric Health Lab research assistant and a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Eta Sigma, and Tau Sigma honors societies. Jessica is a Nebraska Highest Distinction Student-Athlete, Academic All-Big Ten Team, and on the Dean's List.

**James Yong**

James Yong, son of Amos and Mabel Yong of Omaha, is majoring in biological systems engineering. James is the former Initial Military Training Flight Commander and current 465th Cadet Wing Executive Officer for the Air Force ROTC. He is the former Deputy Squadron Commander and Financial Manager and current Director of Support for the Joyce-Johnson Squadron of the Arnold Air Society. He is the secretary of the Biomedical Engineering Society and is on the Lester Leadership Team for Navigators. James has received the Lieutenant Shane Osborn Award, the Chancellor's Academic Excellence Award, and is a Field Training Distinguished Graduate.