

TopScholarStories: *Issue – May 2019*

News of our Top Scholars and Alumni:

Carolina, 1801, Horseshoe, McNair and Stamps Scholars

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Current Scholars:

Stamps Scholar senior Patrick McKenzie wins the Boren Scholarship for Arabic language study

. . . . Senior Patrick McKenzie is the recipient of the Boren Scholarship. This scholarship provides unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded. Boren Scholars represent a vital pool of highly motivated individuals who wish to work in the federal national security arena. In exchange for funding, Boren Scholars commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation. Learn more the Boren at the link below. *Note to the Stamps Foundation: a formal announcement will be provided in the coming days.*

<https://www.borenawards.org/scholarships/program-basics/boren-scholarship-basics>

Stamps Scholar senior wins the University's top award – Algernon Sydney Sullivan

. . . . **Olivia Grace Reszczynski** is majoring in biochemistry and economics and volunteers her time in and around the Columbia area to help those battling cancer and food insecurity. From Philadelphia, Tennessee, Reszczynski has been a writer and editor for The Daily Gamecock and the Garnet and Black student magazine. She has served as president of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Clariosophic Literary Society. She also was a founder and editor-in-chief of Carolina CrossTalk, a research magazine featuring students' personal stories of establishing or conducting research projects across all disciplines. She has participated in undergraduate research in the Integrative Muscle Biology Lab and in health economics research. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and won Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation at the Southeastern Medical Scientist Symposium in 2016 and at Discover USC in 2017. **She is the first Stamps Scholar at UofSC to win this top award.**

Coverage:

- UofSC Today: https://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2019/04/university_honors_top_students_at_awards_day.php?utm_source=%40UofSC+students&utm_campaign=e90da83b44-STUDENT_EMAIL_04_21_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2661c5511e-e90da83b44-53292749#.XL3G4qQpDct
- The Daily Gamecock: https://www.dailygamecock.com/article/2019/04/awards-day-2019?utm_source=The+Daily+Gamecock+List&utm_campaign=368f89a991-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_18_09_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ae971bd175-368f89a991-152686697

Top Scholars recognized at the University's Awards Day

. . . . Twenty-four scholars won 20 awards at the University's celebration of undergraduate students on the Horseshoe this past month. The full list of recipients is below. *See related content above.*

Alumni:

Carolina Scholar alumni begins new journey in gaming

. . . . "....**Jesse Sky**, a lead designer and creative director on Star Wars: The Old Republic, had a similar path. "I didn't start with tabletop games playing D&D, I started with a Star Wars homebrew campaign I ran in college. So for me, working on The Old Republic was a natural extension of what I'd been doing. And actually, a lot of the stuff that made it into Knights of the Fallen Empire was from my homebrew campaign in college."

https://www.gamesradar.com/bioware-devs-dungeons-dragons-odyssey-dragonlords/?fbclid=IwAR3SN4leU_WocgZ6B5xNuuGbPX95kVzz-gY22tILF2UL8N7ThsZ2Xij_7CI

McNair Scholar alumna publishes article based on senior thesis

. . . . **Cynthia Beavin, Class of 2017**, published *Activist framing of abortion and use for policy change in Peru* in the Journal of Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters with the assistance of Deborah Billings of the Arnold School of Public Health.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/26410397.2019.1588012>

Carolina Scholar Alumni wins graduate award

. . . Rutgers Mathematics graduate student **William Cole Franks** (UofSC 2013) was awarded the 2019 Distinguished Scholarly Achievement Award of the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies, which is "awarded to a student who demonstrates the highest possible level of academic excellence and achievement." Franks is completing his Ph.D. in Mathematics in May 2019 and will begin a three year postdoctoral instructorship at MIT in the Fall of 2019.

<https://www.math.rutgers.edu/news-events/news/honors-awards-distinction/1532-math-department-ph-d-student-william-cole-franks-wins-2019-rutgers-school-of-graduate-studies-distinguished-scholarly-achievement-award>