

Meet the January 2021 Student of the Month

VIRTUAL STUDENT: WILLIAM TINNEY

Originally from Owasso, Oklahoma, William Tinney is in his third year at FHSU. So far, William's favorite leadership course that he has taken is Field Work in Leadership Studies. Although challenging, he enjoyed taking the knowledge he had learned in previous classes and using it to work towards a specific goal. COVID-19 presented new challenges to his project, but with the help of his instructor, Dr. Donnette Noble, he accomplished many of his objectives, leaving a positive impact on his community. While serving in the Marine Corps for 20 years, William learned a lot about leadership. Still, since the administration has so many looks and approaches, he wanted to learn even more to become a better leader and instructor. William was recently accepted into the FHSU Honor Society and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success at FHSU. In his community, he is an instructor at the Marine Corps JROTC, working with high school students. William says, "Through this program, I take our students out into our community and assist in any way we can, such as picking up trash at a public park, helping local police and fire departments by cleaning their vehicles, or straightening up equipment. The goal is to develop these young adults into productive citizens who will excel and lead our communities." William is a husband and dad, and in his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, jogging, camping, being on the lake, and, most of all, duck hunting. Congratulations, William!

Meet the February 2021 Students of the Month

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: MCKAYLA BERG

Originally from Salina, Kansas, McKayla Berg is a junior working towards a degree in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Business. McKayla got involved with the Leadership department because of the positive and encouraging atmosphere and environment within the department. She also enjoys the many opportunities possible with a degree in Organizational Leadership. "I have truly enjoyed all my leadership classes, whether it be the content I am learning, my classmates, or the passionate teachers! However, if I could only choose one, I would have to choose Field Work in Leadership Studies, which I am currently taking!" McKayla's 310 teams are working to raise funds and spread awareness of Insulin Aid. Outside of school, McKayla enjoys spending time with family and friends. McKayla's favorite sport is softball, and she also enjoys watching football and baseball. McKayla also enjoys drawing, painting, watching movies, and playing card and board games. Congratulations, McKayla!

VIRTUAL STUDENT: JESSE NEW

From Carrollton, Georgia, Jesse New is a senior working towards a degree in Organizational Leadership with certificates in Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Moral and Political Philosophy. Jesse found his passion for leadership and teaching at a previous employer, where he led an organization of around 170 people. Jesse's favorite class so far has been LDRS 670 Leadership and Personal Development with Dr. Donnette Noble because he is passionate about both leadership and personal development, "I believe that leadership, though inherent in some more than others, can be learned and those of us who desire to be leaders should focus on that area daily. Furthermore, personal development is part of who I am at my core. I live every day trying to be better than I was the day before." Outside of school, Jesse is involved with his local animal shelter in working to become a foster home for cats. In his free time, Jesse enjoys playing pool, disc golf, and reading, particularly enjoying social psychology, politics, and media. Congratulations, Jesse!

Meet the April 2021 Students of the Month

Raenee Patterson

Raenee is in her fifth year at Fort Hays and is working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. When asked why she chose to become involved in the Department of Leadership Studies, Raenee said, “When I came to visit campus six years ago I sat down and talked with Jill Arensdorf, and I could immediately tell she cared about me as a student. That is what drew me to the department. What kept me here throughout my undergraduate and then graduate career was the continued caring from the faculty and the friends I was able to make with the other students in the program. I have also appreciated how my professors built a relationship with me and always pushed me to be a better student while providing all the support they could.” Her favorite course she has taken was Crisis Leadership with Jill. It connected everything she has been learning for the last five years and challenged her to think in new ways. In her free time, Raenee likes to travel, bake and cook, spend time with her family and friends, and read. She is also a graduate teaching assistant for the Communication Studies Department and is interning with the Delta Zeta Foundation. Raenee currently serves as the Panhellenic advisor for the Delta Zeta chapter at Fort Hays, and is looking forward to discovering new hobbies after she graduates this May. Congratulations, Raenee!

Haley Williams

Haley is working towards a Master of Professional Studies with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Haley has lived in Hays for over ten years but is originally from Hazelton, Kansas. She began working part time in the Office of Global Partnerships at Fort Hays in 2018. Here she found a love for working in the field of international education and decided to apply to graduate school. The MPS program aligned with the areas that she wanted to grow in; personally, professionally, and on an educational level. Thus far, Haley’s favorite course of the program has been Theoretical Foundations of Leadership. “This course provided an incredible foundation of knowledge, and forced me to wrestle with my view and vision of leadership.” As she began to understand the connections of leadership and followership theories, as well as positive and negative leader and follower experiences, she was able to better understand her past and envision her future. Outside of school, Haley enjoys spending time with her family. She has two daughters and is very involved in their various activities like 4-H, swimming, and softball. Haley also enjoys connecting with international students on campus,

playing with her two dogs, gardening, and working on projects around her house. Congratulations, Haley!

Zhang Zizheng (Olivia)

Originally from Xingyang, Henan, China, Olivia is working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. Being in her second year at Fort Hays, Olivia's favorite class thus far has been LDRS 801, the Theoretical Foundation of Leadership. Having taken it with Jeni McRay, Olivia developed a better understanding of how leadership theories can be applied to her own life. Olivia has also learned how to find and develop her own leadership styles which helps set a foundation for her future in the workplace. It also helps her to have a better relationship with others. Olivia said, "I used to be a summer camp director during my undergraduate years in China, and those experiences helped me find my goal for the future. I chose this major because I wanted to work with non-profit organizations after graduation, especially working with orphans." Olivia has been involved in the Chinese Student and Scholars Association, as well as the International Student Union. Her hobbies outside of school include trying new foods, watching movies, and traveling. Congratulations, Olivia!

Javier Gonzalez

Congratulations, Javier!

Meet the May 2021 Students of the Month

JON QUINDAY

Living in Russell, Kansas, Jon Quinday is an Organizational Leadership major and is the May Student of the Month. When asked why Jon decided to become involved in the Department of Leadership Studies, he said, “Increasing my knowledge to better serve my organization and community. In my current role, I have subject matter experts leading each department – finance, utilities, law enforcement, fire, communications, zoning, public works, and more – so improving my understanding of organizational leadership will help me to further empower those on my team.” Jon’s favorite class that he has taken thus far has been Principles of Civic Leadership with Donnette Noble. The course challenged him to not look at a situation through a single lens, but to take into account all aspects, not just his own experiences. “Not only did I learn the principles of civic leadership, but the course also changed the way I see the world and interact with others personally and professionally.” Outside of school, Jon is involved in the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Within his community he is a Veterans of Foreign Wars Life Member, in the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, and was previously the president for the USD 407 Board of Education. In his free time, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, spending time with his grandkids, and traveling with his wife of 30 years. Congratulations, Jon!

TRISH SYLVESTER

Congratulations, Trish!

ZHANG (LUMINARY) QI

Congratulations, Luminary!

Meet the July 2021 Student of the Month

Riley West

From Cameron Park, California, Riley West is in her first year working towards her Masters of Business Administration with a Concentration in Leadership Studies. So far, LDRS 670 Leadership and Personal Development has been Riley's favorite leadership course because "it has really helped me to learn a lot about myself and my own strengths and weaknesses. It has forced a lot of self-reflection and has already helped me on my path to leadership by boosting my confidence. I also really like interacting with students from all over the country and seeing everyone's differing viewpoints." Outside of FHSU, Riley is a high school girls' basketball coach, volunteers with a dog rescue in California, and is involved with community disaster preparedness and disaster drill. Riley loves all things Disney, enjoys taking pictures of family and friends, and playing board games and card games with her family. Congratulations, Riley!

September 2021

Jon Quinday

Living in Russell, Kansas, Jon Quinday is an Organizational Leadership major and is the September Student of the Month. When asked why Jon decided to become involved in the Department of Leadership Studies, he said, “Increasing my knowledge to serve my organization and community better. In my current role, I have subject matter experts leading each department – finance, utilities, law enforcement, fire, communications, zoning, public works, and more – so improving my understanding of organizational Leadership will help me to empower those on my team further.” Jon’s favorite class that he has taken thus far has been Principles of Civic Leadership with Donnette Noble. The course challenged him not to look at a situation through a single lens but to consider all aspects, not just his own experiences. “Not only did I learn the principles of civic leadership, but the course also changed how I see the world and interact with others personally and professionally.” Outside of school, Jon is involved in the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Within his community, he is a Veterans of Foreign Wars Life Member in the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and was previously the president of the USD 407 Board of Education. In his free time, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, spending time with his grandkids, and traveling with his wife of 30 years. Congratulations, Jon!

Connor Harris

Connor Harris is a junior from Topeka majoring in Organizational Leadership and is the September Student of the Month. In addition to his major in Organizational Leadership, Connor is also working towards a certificate in grant writing. Connor is involved with Christian Challenge and is on the Big Leadership Team. Connor’s favorite class so far has been LDRS 310 with Dr. Lori Kniffin and Dr. Seth Kastle because of the application of previous courses to a community project. Connor got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because “I believe our society could benefit from healthy leaders in all aspects, but specifically as servant leaders. I desire to grow in my understanding of it. In the future, I desire to build leaders for future churches, communities, and other aspects.” Congratulations, Connor!

October Student of the Month

October 2021

MORGAN BARBA

Morgan Barba, our October Student of The Month, is a freshman from Henderson, CO, majoring in Agricultural Business Agronomy and working towards a Leadership Studies Certificate. Morgan is involved on campus with Block and Bridle, Sigma Alpha, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Student Government Association. Outside of school, Morgan enjoys running, listening to true crime podcasts, reading, and training her llamas for performance competitions. Morgan got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she was involved in leadership in 4-H at the county and state level. Morgan has a passion for leadership and believes that a certificate would help improve her overall leadership skills. Congratulations, Morgan!

NATHAN HOY

Our October Student of the Month is Nathan Hoy, a freshman majoring in History Education from Wichita. In addition to majoring in History Education, Nathan is also working towards his Leadership Studies Certificate. Nathan is involved with Tiger Media Network and is on the Building Council for Victor E. Village and Hanson Hall. Nathan got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies through the Learning Community L3: Live. Learn. Lead. Outside of school, Nathan enjoys working and playing games. Congratulations, Nathan!

MACY NIXON

Congratulations, Macy!

FLORYCEL ESPERANZATE

Congratulations, Florycel!

BILL MIAO

Congratulations, Bill!

NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2021

Makenzie Meschberger

From Garden City, Makenzie is our November Student of the Month. Makenzie is a freshman majoring in Music Education and working toward a Certificate in Leadership Studies. Since she has been at FHSU, Makenzie has been involved with Encounter College Ministry, National Association for Music Educators (NAME), Breathe Coffee House Bible Study, and Concert Choir. Makenzie got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because her dream is to be a worship pastor, which involves leading large groups of people. Her favorite class so far, is LDRS 302 Introduction to Leadership Concepts with Dr. Brett Whitaker because of the interactive activities. Outside of FHSU, Makenzie enjoys coffee, dogs, dance, reading, watching Netflix, and playing the piano. Makenzie even started her own business called Painted Truths (@paintedtruthsbykenzie). Congratulations, Makenzie!

Sian Weekley

Congratulations, Sian!

December Student of the Month

Sadie Holloway

Sadie Holloway, a senior from Sterling, Colorado, is our December Student of the Month. She is currently a Communication Sciences and Disorder major working towards receiving a Leadership Studies Certificate. Sadie got involved with the Leadership Studies Department after hearing about the certificate program. Her favorite class has been LDRS 300, with Lori as her teacher. At FHSU, Sadie is involved in NSSLHA, and Christian Challenge, where she is involved in the leadership team and a student tutor on campus. Sadie enjoys doing anything active, being outdoors, and being with her family. Congratulations, Sadie!

Sue Noyes

Sue Noyes is our December 2021 Student of the Month from Berkeley, California. Sue is working towards an MPS in Organizational Leadership in her second year. She enjoys spending time outdoors, especially swimming, hiking, and biking. Sue choose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because “the FHSU Graduate Leadership program has a reputation for academic rigor, excellence, and fostering professional and personal growth and development.” Sue’s favorite leadership course has been LDRS 802 Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership with Dr. Jeni McRay because it “was mind-blowingly exciting. It challenged and transformed my mindset and set the stage for the other great classes I have taken. The opportunity to engage with smart, interesting, and motivated classmates from around the country has been a huge plus, and I’m looking forward to more great classes and classmates as I move through the program.” Congratulations, Sue!

Samuel Martin

Samuel Martin, a senior from Cumming, Georgia, is our December Student of the Month. He is currently majoring in General Studies with a Concentration in Business and working towards receiving his Certificate in Leadership Studies. Samuel is now living in Wiesbaden, Germany, and loves traveling worldwide. Samuel got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because he wants to see a change in leadership practices within our nation. His favorite class in LDRS 300 is Introduction to Leadership Concepts, because it has a lot of content on what makes a good leader. Congratulations, Samuel!

