2011-2015 Student of the Month Recipients

* **September 2011**

**On-Campus Student: Laura Dougherty**

Laura is a senior at Fort Hays State, originally from Colby, Kansas. She is pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Organizational Leadership and a minor in Business Administration. She chose to become involved with the Leadership Studies Department because she had "heard about what a great program the Leadership Department was, as well as its reputation for having rewarding courses, amazing instructors, and a 'family feel.'" Her favorite Leadership class that she has taken so far is LDRS 450: Advanced Leadership Behaviors, which she is currently enrolled in. She enjoys studying behaviors and skills from both the leader and follower perspective and finds that this class gives her many practical skills that she can apply to her life and career. Outside of academics, Laura is involved in many extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Fort Hays Honor Society, Leadership Studies Association, Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Model United Nations and a church group.

**Virtual Student: Kimberly Smith**

Kimberly is an Organizational Leadership major from Abilene, Kansas. Kimberly's husband's job requires her family to move every few years, so she chose the Department of Leadership Studies because she wanted a degree that she "could apply to a wide variety of occupations to reduce any limitations (she) found in a local job market." Kimberly says that she has enjoyed all of her Leadership classes, but if she had to choose her favorite, it would be LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development as it allowed her to apply many academic principles to her own life experiences and behaviors. Kimberly added that she has "met some truly amazing and wonderful people (both instructors and fellow students) who have had a huge impact on (her) views of leadership." Kimberly is a stay-at-home mom to two boys and she enjoys teaching yoga and Pilates, reading, knitting and gardening in her spare time.

**International Student: Sui Yunting (Tiffany)**

Tiffany is a junior at our partner university- Shenyang Normal University in China, where she is currently pursuing her Leadership Studies degree. She decided to become involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she believes it will help her explore her potential, develop her talents and help her be a better leader. She also wanted to better understand collaboration, teamwork and influence. Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 480: Leadership and Team Dynamics, because it has helped her to more thoroughly understand teamwork. She enjoys the in-class activities as they have helped her better recognize team energy and personal strengths. Tiffany's hobbies include swimming, playing badminton, singing and playing the saxophone. She is also a member of the English Club in the College of International Business.

* **October 2011**

**On-Campus Student: Tyson Miller**

Tyson is a junior at Fort Hays State, originally from Colby, Kansas, majoring in Organizational Leadership. When asked why he chose the Leadership Studies Department, Tyson said that the program seemed to be "new and fresh" and that it "broke away from the traditional class style and encouraged students to be more involved." His favorite Leadership class that he has taken this far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts with Mr. John Montgomery. Tyson said he enjoys John's "upbeat, energetic teaching style" and is "interested in the numerous styles of leading, relating to, and working with one's peers and followers." He also added that he believes these lessons will be extremely beneficial later in his life and would "encourage every student to experience at least one leadership course." Outside of academics, Tyson is involved in the Leadership Studies Association, as the treasurer, and also in intramural sports and the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity. His hobbies include spending time with family, writing, ATVing, watching movies, playing sports, or any activity outdoors.

**Virtual Student: Sophie Wanamaker**

Sophie is an Organizational Leadership major originally from Cleveland, Ohio. Sophie and her husband Tom now reside in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, since Tom's retirement from the military after twenty years of service. Sophie chose to major in Organizational Leadership because she felt it would be very beneficial to her career in human resources. Sophie didn't name a specific class as her overall favorite in the Department of Leadership Studies but she did add that all of the leadership courses she has taken complement one another. She finds leadership studies to be "extremely valuable" because it will "continue to evolve as we evolve." Sophie is involved in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and is employed as a human resource and environmental management representative. She enjoys traveling and biking, as well as learning about Polish culture and stained glass. Sophie has one son, Tyler, who is currently serving in the United States Army.

**International Student: Wang Tingting (Fiona)**

Congratulations Fiona!

* **November 2011**

**On-Campus Student: Maureen Duffy**

Maureen is in her first year at Fort Hays State. She is currently pursuing a Global Leadership Certificate. Maureen chose to re-enter school after 'retiring' from 27 years of working as a physical therapist. She then decided to become involved with the Leadership Studies Department because she had "experienced unsatisfactory supervision and management" in her career and felt that she "could benefit from better leadership skills." Her favorite Leadership Studies class is currently LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Studies because this "course has allowed me to see the leadership (or lack thereof) I have experienced over my career in a different light. If I had only had a course like this one years ago, I feel that I would have been a more effective teammate in my work environments." Maureen enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, John, and her dog, Boomer, a retired service dog. She also serves as a Disaster Specialist for the American Red Cross and enjoys the interaction with volunteers, clients, and community partners, as well as making a difference in the lives of her neighbors during a time of crisis.

**Virtual Student: Kateryna Chlumsky**

Kateryna is a Political Science and Public Administration major originally from the Ukraine, although she has now lived in the United States for the past ten years. She currently works as a business owner in Larned, Kansas. When asked why she chose the Department of Leadership Studies she said that her decision was based on "the nature of my personality." She explained that being a leader is "a hard and responsible role" and that "to perform leadership it means to believe in yourself and others." Kateryna says that she has enjoyed all of her Leadership classes and believes that they are all connected and very valuable. Outside of academics, she enjoys a variety of cultures, dancing, traveling, and speaking several foreign languages. In conclusion, Kateryna thanked the wonderful staff and outstanding leaders in the department.

**International Student: Zhang Jinzhou (Charles)**

Congratulations Charles!

* **February 2012**

**On-Campus Student: Jason Dreiling**

Congratulations Jason!

**Virtual Student: Sean Mahon**

Sean is currently pursuing his Associates Degree at Fort Hays State University. He has obtained his Leadership Studies certificate virtually, as he lives in Coeur D' Alene, Idaho. Sean's favorite leadership class was LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies because he had the opportunity to get out and active in his community. He said that he "enjoyed meeting people and working on (his) collaboration skills." He also enjoyed 310 because he could apply the theories and concepts that he learned in LDRS 300 and LDRS 302. Sean chose to get involved with the Leadership Studies Department because his biggest goal in life is to continue learning and he was "interested in the new curriculum." On the advice of Leadership Studies Instructor Brett Whitaker, whom Sean thanked, he chose to enroll in the Leadership Certificate program courses. His advice to current and future students is to use your resources-such as great advisors because they can help you out and be there for you if you need them. In his free time, Sean enjoys collecting sports cards and learning more about President Kennedy. He also enjoys spending time with his supportive family.

* **March 2012**

**On-Campus Student: Emily Goad**

Emily, a sophomore at Fort Hays State University, is originally from Great Bend, Kansas. Emily is currently pursuing an Organizational Leadership Bachelor's degree. Emily chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because after originally pursuing her Leadership Studies certificate, she realized just how much she "loved" the department. This made her decide to "major in Organizational Leadership and get more involved in the department." Emily's favorite leadership course so far has been Introduction to Leadership Concepts because it has "really made (her) think about the question 'What makes a leader a leader?'" She says this course has "kept (her) interest and energy level up which makes it easy to go to class!" Outside of her studies, Emily likes to spend time with family and friends, volunteer, play tennis and watch movies.

**Virtual Student: Shane Cruze**

Shane is currently a senior Organizational Leadership major from Knoxville, Tennessee. Shane chose to pursue an Organizational Leadership degree because he believed that the classes "were a perfect complement to (his) current career." As he is currently employed as a senior level manager of a financial institution, he says that the "additional skill sets and tools" he has learned have made him even more successful. He also said that his job requires him to travel to other countries and that the "leadership and communication skills" he has learned have helped him "interface more effectively with people of different cultures and business philosophies." Shane said that he doesn't have a favorite leadership course but that "each class has built upon one another." He said that his final two classes, LDRS 640: Principles of Civic Leadership and LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development "are proving to be the perfect finale" of his leadership coursework. Shane is involved with the Boy Scouts of America as an Executive Council Board Member. He serves on the Tennessee State Guard in Chaplain Services and also as an International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium. His hobbies include backpacking, hiking, ham radio, and biking.

* **April 2012**

**On-Campus Student: Shane Mata**

Shane is a senior at Fort Hays State University majoring in Organizational Leadership. He is originally from Sublette, Kansas. Shane's favorite class so far in his coursework has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development. He has enjoyed this class the most because of the assigned texts: The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch and How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie. He is also grateful for the experience he gained through the numerous two-minute speeches that class members had to do. Shane got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because of a suggestion that came from a degree analyst, after visiting about his career interests. When not in class, Shane enjoys participating in HALO and intramurals at Fort Hays. He also works at the Student Service Center in the Memorial Union on campus.

**Virtual Student: Christine Bayer**

Christine, a senior Organizational Leadership major from St. Louis, Missouri was selected as the April 2012 Virtual Student of the Month. Christine became involved in the department when several of her Fort Hays colleagues "encouraged (her) to consider taking classes through the Virtual College." Christine said that she "spoke with Christie Brungardt and signed up immediately because of the passion with which she spoke about the subject." Christine's favorite class throughout her coursework has been Civic Leadership. She said that LDRS 640 made her "re-examine (her) youthful perspective of the Civil Rights movement in our Country through the assigned reading of Walking with the Wind by John Lewis." She mentioned that "In addition to the historical changes this movement had on our society, the book introduced me to ordinary individuals who did extraordinary things-something that each of us is capable of." Outside of academics, Christine enjoys gardening and reading. She also helps in organizing the collection of school supplies and toys for the U.S. Marine Corps' Operation Care with her sister who is currently deployed to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. Christine will be graduating this summer.

**International Student: Meng Meng (Rita)**

Rita is a sophomore at our partner university, Shen Yang Normal University in Shen Yang, Laioning, China. Rita is currently a dual major in International Finance and Organizational Leadership. Rita chose to get involved with in the Department of Leadership Studies because she knows that the study of leadership "is very important for her future," as it helps in "the relation between people, groups, and in collaboration." Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behavior. Rita's hobbies include participating in English and music clubs, as well as playing basketball, volleyball, and listening to music.

* **September 2012**

**On-Campus Student: Alyssa Peppiatt**

Alyssa is a junior at Fort Hays State University, originally from Salina, Kansas. She is currently pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Organizational Leadership and a minor in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Alyssa recently transferred to FHSU, but says that she "loves the welcoming environment that the students and teachers represent, especially within the Leadership Studies department." She added that the "classes are exciting, different, and compatible with many aspects of (her) life." Alyssa chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she wanted to further her passion for helping others. Outside of academics, Alyssa is involved in Leadership Studies Association (LSA), Catholic Disciples, Christian Challenge, and Vision Groups. She looks forward to becoming involved in many other organizations at FHSU.

**Virtual Student: Mark Bond**

Mark is a junior majoring in Organizational Leadership from Webb City, Missouri. He currently leads a team of forty graphic designers for a privately owned media advertising company. Mark says that through his experiences of leading teams over the past fifteen years, "when it came to working with people, (his) education was lacking and after reading many leadership books, (he) really desired to pursue a degree in Organizational Leadership." Mark adds that "not only did Fort Hays State University offer the program (he) was looking for, but the online availability was a perfect match for balancing (his) busy schedule of work and family life." Bond's favorite class currently is LDRS 302, Introduction to Leadership Behaviors, because he has observed the positive outcomes of collaborative leadership. Outside of his coursework, Mark enjoys spending time with his wife and three children (ages 6, 8, and 10). His other hobbies include coaching soccer, St. Louis Cardinal Baseball, and golfing with friends.

* **October 2012**

**On-Campus Student: Tre' Giles**

Tre' Giles is a sophomore at Fort Hays State University, majoring in Organizational Leadership. Originally from, Colorado Spring, Colorado, Tre' was unsure of what major to pursue when he arrived at FHSU. After talking to a number of advisors, he "finally ended up getting some information about the Leadership Department. I found out it was all about serving others and working with people, which is what I love." In addition he added that "The staff from the leadership department is amazing, helpful, and very fun. The major just fits me and my lifestyle perfectly."Tre' is currently enrolled in LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts, and said that he "really enjoys this class, because it has helped me discover who I am as a person. This class also gave me the opportunity to do some projects that I later used to educate and inspire other students. I'm very excited to take more of the leadership classes." Tre' is actively involved at FHSU as the Global Leadership Project Coordinator for the Center of Civic Leadership, as the Chaplain of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and as the vice president of the Black Student Union. He is also a member of Christian Challenge, a Student Government Association senator, and the social media relations coordinator for the Marketing and Management Association. His dream is to join the Peace Corps.

**Virtual Student: Lucas Dillie**

Luke is a sophomore at Fort Hays State University working towards earning his Organizational Leadership Bachelor’s degree, as well as a Marketing minor. Fort Hays State University has allowed Luke to continue his education after starting his career. He finds that working and being in college at the same time is a benefit because he can apply principles from both leadership and marketing courses to his career. Luke is an Instructional Designer with Viaero Wireless-a wireless provider serving Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. Luke chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies as the leadership concepts were "not only intriguing, but would be more applicable than any other degree program since it's so versatile." Luke claims his favorite leadership course as LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies because he is "actively applying all of the concepts, knowledge and skills to make a positive impact within an organization that is important" to him. When Luke is not working or studying, he commits his time to training at the gym. His aspiration is to achieve his Personal Trainer Certification to "see if his passion and lifestyle would be a new career opportunity."

**International Student: Xu Weiling (Savannah)**

* **November 2012**

**On-Campus Student: Nicole Walz**

Nicole is a senior majoring in Organizational Leadership and will begin her MLS in Organizational Leadership in January. After transferring to Fort Hays State University, she began exploring many different majors. Nicole changed her major to Leadership Studies after taking an online class. Nicole works as an administrative assistant for the Center for Civic Leadership. She has been a member of Leadership Studies Association for the last two years and is actively involved in Jana's Campaign, Inc. Nicole's involvement in Jana's Campaign allowed her to gain insight of the challenges presented in nonprofit organizations. Her favorite leadership class is LDRS 640: Principles of Civic Leadership. Nicole said, "The class allowed me to find an extreme passion and motivation within myself and examine the bigger picture, as well as realize my own purpose." In her spare time, she enjoys visiting family, traveling, and training for a half marathon.

**Virtual Student: Laura Heisler**

Laura Heisler is an online student from Topeka, Kansas. Her current major is General Studies. She is working toward her Leadership Studies Certificate. She chose to pursue the Leadership Certificate to develop greater career options. Laura said, "During my work years I think the role of leader has taken a back seat to being a follower. Studying leadership is a step in the right direction to becoming a higher-quality and informed leader." One of her favorite leadership classes is LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. One of her required class readings was Coach K's book which included college sports stories. Laura said that she "would admit the final project of reading and reporting on Coach K's book was so enjoyable it didn't feel like an assignment at all." Laura is a pre-school teacher and takes nine credit hours online every semester. In her spare time, she enjoys creating jewelry.

**International Student: Yan Lijia (Apple)**

It is Apple's first year at Fort Hays State University. She is majoring in finance. Apple is originally from Zhumadian City Henan Province, China. She chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she says that "it is valuable for me to learn and can help me to know the history of leadership and teach me to become a better leader." Her favorite leadership class is LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. Apple said, "My teacher is a very kind and patient person that always helps us when we have problems with new words we cannot understand." In her spare time, Apple enjoys learning to play guitar and is taking a jazz dance class. She is also an active member of the Student Government Association.

* **February 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Michaela Sasse**

Michaela is a freshman at Fort Hays State University majoring in Speech-Language Pathology and working toward a Certificate in Leadership Studies. She chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because it would allow her to "not only develop (her) communication skills, but also a servant's heart." Michaela's favorite class has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts because it "showed (her) how to apply leadership in multiple aspects of (her) life." She has had a positive experience with Leadership Studies, adding that "The staff is absolutely incredible in the way that each professor is willing to put forth the time and effort to make sure that every student succeeds." Outside of her coursework, Michaela is involved with Catholic Disciples, the Distinguished Scholars Program, Fort Hays Honor Society, Women's Chorale, and a recreational volleyball team. She is also a lector at church and employed as a staff assistant at the Robbins Center. Her hobbies include reading, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

**Virtual Student: Ben Kelso**

Ben is a first year grad student in the Master's of Liberal Studies Program with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. He is from San Diego, California and is employed as a Detective Sergeant for the San Diego Police Department Family Justice Center/ Domestic Violence Unit and as an Assistant Football Coach at Del Norte High School. Ben also serves as the San Diego Chapter President of the National Black Police Association and has held this leadership role for almost four years. In his free time, he enjoys working with local youth, taekwondo, and playing both the alto and baritone saxophone.When asked why he chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies, he said that "after (his) extensive search of potential graduate schools around the nationâ€¦ (He) felt that the Department offered the most comprehensive education in the areas (he) was interested in." His favorite class thus far has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development because of the required reading texts, class discussions, and the emphasis on personal reflection.

**International Student: Gao Xiaotian (Marcus)**

Marcus is a junior at our partner university, Shenyang Normal University in China, where he is currently pursuing his degree in Finance and a Certificate in Leadership Studies. Marcus is originally from Fushun, China. He chose to be involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because "The vision, strategy, spirit of collaboration, and the focus on the influence relationship between leaders and followers provided by the courses are things that (he) has never worked on, and because they motivate (him) to a whole new level to pursue the well-being of society." Outside of class, Marcus is involved in the Student Union and English Club.Marcus has enjoyed LDRS 480: Leadership and Team Dynamics because "The assignments and activities provided are exciting and creative. They further (his) understanding of leadership, both in the course materials and the process of these activities themselves." He also added that "The teacher, LeAnn, and cooperating teacher, Ryan, tried their best to help us in the course and we all love them so much for it."

* **March 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Russell J. Mortinger**

Russell is a sophomore majoring in Organizational Leadership. He is originally from Hays, KS. Russell says he decided to get involved in the Department of Leadership Studies because "(his) wife knew (he) would enjoy and excel in Leadership Studies because of (his) leadership throughout a military career as an Infantry Sergeant." His favorite class is LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts, because it allowed him to better comprehend "the concept of leadership rather than just simply leading and following." Outside of academics, Russell is involved with the Defensive Tactics Club, Army Reserves, VFW, American Legion, and volunteering. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time outside with his wife and two dogs, hosting barbeques and bonfires, working out, and preparing for the birth of his son in July.

**Virtual Student: Holly Weiss**

Holly is a senior majoring in English Secondary Education and pursuing a minor in Organizational Leadership. She is originally from Anthony, Kansas. She is involved on-campus as the president of Delta Zeta sorority, former president of Panhellenic council, as a member of Tigers 4 Life, Order of Omega, and Students for Concealed Carry. She is also a Student Government Association senator. Holly enjoys her involvement in philanthropy events, sisterhoods, and social events within these organizations. In her spare time, she enjoys reading books, watching movies, and attending athletic games. Holly views her minor in Organizational Leadership as beneficial to helping her succeed in potentially achieving her Masters in Higher Education and Administration. She hopes to one day work for a university in Student Affairs or Greek Life.

**International Student: Xiaodong Yuan (Mohican)**

Mohican is a junior majoring in Organizational Leadership. He is originally from Henan, China. Mohican chose to pursue this major because, "(he) realized that few people know how to take the responsibility to stand up and be a leader. Leadership courses help (him) to prepare for success in both personal and professional life. We can be trained to be accountable and share responsibility for social and environmental issues. (He) wants to be a person who takes part in (his) community by communicating with others toward goals that can help society." His favorite class he has taken thus far is LDRS 306: Leadership and Team Dynamics. Before taking this course, Mohican said he saw more value in working independently. Now, Mohican says, "I am able to see the benefits of a well-structured team and how to use specific tools to make a team more effective, profitable, and increase productivity. Therefore I think it is interesting to learn how to motivate team members to participate through group cohesion and positive teamwork to make a more unified and wonderful team."Outside of class, Mohican enjoys experimenting with electrical projects. He says, "I am passionate about electricity and how it can help humans put an end to potentially harmful energy sources." He also enjoys reading A Man Out of Time by Nikola Tesla. He is also involved in Journalism Club, Bring Me Hope Charity Donation for Orphans, and Japanese Culture Club.

* **April 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Kali McCulloch**

Kali is a junior from Wichita, KS pursuing a major in Organizational Leadership. She decided to pursue this major because of the classes and the variety of career choices this degree offers. Kali says, "Since I have chosen leadership as my major, I have not been happier and I feel like I can finally see my future clearly ahead of me." I have only taken two leadership classes and it is very difficult to pick which one is my favorite. Outside of academics, Kali also works at Carlos 'O Kelley's as a server and supervisor. When asked what her favorite leadership course that she has taken is, she explained that she equally enjoyed LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts and LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behavior. "LDRS 300 with Christie (Dr. Brungardt) is amazing and LDRS 302 with Jill (Dr. Arensdorf) is equally amazing. I believe that the reason why both Leadership Concepts and Leadership Behavior are so fantastic is because of the women who teach them. They both have impacted and motivated me to become a better student and person and I couldn't tell them how thankful I am even if I tried. You get out what you put in is true, but you get even more when you have excellent professors like Christie and Jill to guide you." In her spare time, Kali enjoys reading, spending time outside, and watching movies. "I appreciate nature and when you put nature and a good book together, it couldn't be a better day."

**Virtual Student: Jamie Rogers**

Congratulations Jamie!

**International Student: YanBing Jin (Jasmine)**

Congratulations Jasmine!

* **May 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Danielle Dougherty**

Originally from Little River, KS, Danielle is a senior at Fort Hays State University, majoring in Biology. She is currently pursuing a Leadership Studies certificate, as well. Danielle originally took an interest in the Department of Leadership Studies because she felt that she had certain traits that were important to have as a leader, but also felt as though she had more to learn. Danielle mentioned that her father has been teaching her about leadership since she was young and that she believes "learning concepts of leadership will not only help set (her) apart in the future, but also help (her) to be a more effective leader in the workplace." Her favorite class was LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts with Dr. Christie Brungardt. She said she "wasn't sure what to expect, but (she) immediately loved the discussion-based style of the class. Christie did a great job presenting each topic and helping us connect concept to real-life situations." Danielle currently works at the Center for Health Improvement. She enjoys working out, reading, watching old Saturday Night Live episodes, and spending time with her family. During her time at FHSU, Danielle has worked with the FHSU Foundation as a Tiger Caller and as an Orientation Assistant.

**Virtual Student: John Martens**

Congratulations John!

**International Student: Jiang SiChun (Susie)**

Jiang SiChun (Susie) is an Organizational Leadership major from China. Her favorite class this semester is LDRS 670: Leadership & Personal Development. She said that LDRS 670 "is kind of a different class for me, as we can express ourselves in class." In addition, Susie says that this class has taught her how to put leadership theories into her life and learn how to change herself to be better. Last semester, Susie took LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies and was a part of the Western Plains Animal Refuge team. Outside of classes, Susie enjoys shopping with friends, cooking for friends, and reading.

* **September 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Dakota Bryant**

Congratulations Dakota!

**Virtual Student: Tim Williams**

Tim Williams is an online student from Washington, DC. The major he is pursuing is Organizational Leadership. Tim chose Leadership Studies because after the Great Recession hit he decided he wanted make a change from his current career and have more of a leadership role. He said, "I wanted to become a more effective leader both in business, my volunteer role, and my home role." Tim's favorite class was LDRS 300- Intro to Leadership Studies. The class was difficult at the start but after reaching out to his professor he was able to succeed. He said, "Thanks to Marisa's feedback and support, I went on to make my first A in twenty-four years." Outside of being an online student his hobbies include, Reading, travel, volunteering at the Washington Animal Rescue League.

**International Student: Tian Yifan (Adela)**

Congratulations Adela!

* **October 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Jessica Mastel**

Jessica Mastel is a 5th year Senior who is majoring in Organizational Leadership. She chose to get involved in the department after taking Christie's 300 course to obtain a Leadership certificate. After struggling initially she said, "Something just clicked and I found my home." Her favorite class that she has taken was Women & Leadership. She is involved in several activities and organizations including Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, and the Board of Directors for Hays Community Theatre. Her current hobbies outside of school include playing trumpet for TMP's musicals, participating in a bowling league and bartending at Singer's.

**Virtual Student: Clint Raulsten**

Congratulations Clint!

**International Student: Shenhui Zhu (Streep)**

Congratulations Streep!

* **November 2013**

**On-Campus Student: Brandon Taylor**

Brandon is a junior from Greensburg, KS who is working toward a degree in Business Management and a Leadership Studies Certificate. He chose to get involved with the department because "leadership is going to be an important part of any job setting once (he) graduates from FHSU." He also said, "I want to make a difference in the world and in my career field and my involvement in the department will allow me to accomplish those goals." His favorite classes have been Leadership Concepts and Leadership Behaviors because he was able to learn about the evolution of leadership throughout history and how to apply those skills.

Brandon is involved in a number of organizations with FHSU that include: Fort Hays Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Psi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, SPURS, Up 'til Dawn, College of Business Student Advisory Committee, Undergraduate Research Experience Committee, Student Government Association, Allocations and Appropriations Committee, Scholarship Committee, Swipe Out Hunger Food Packaging, and Tigers In Service. In addition to his involvement in on-campus activities, he enjoys reading, listening to country music, and running.

**Virtual Student: Bailey Koerperich**

Bailey is a junior majoring in Communication with a minor in Leadership Studies. After spending two years on campus she moved to New Hampshire, this is her first semester taking classes virtually. She chose to pursue a minor in Leadership when, "(she) fell in love with the professors, courses, and teaching style." Her favorite class was Field Work in Leadership Studies because, "the 310 course offers hands on experience with the topics learned in the previous classes." During her first two years on campus she participated in Women's choir, intramurals, AAUW, SPURS, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Currently she works two jobs in the hopes of gaining valuable experience. In her free time she enjoys traveling, going to Baseball games, peach picking, and cooking classes. After graduating, she plans to attend FHSU for Graduate school studying Leadership.

**International Student: Wang Yipeng (Fred)**

Fred, a junior from Nanyang, is majoring in Organizational Leadership. When asked why he chose to major in Leadership Studies he said, "the skills I learn in this department can help me serve my classmates, my community and beyond." His favorite class so far has been Field Work in Leadership Studies because his teacher was very patient, helpful, and encouraging. Fred is involved in the SIAS Dance Club and the Art and Literature department. Outside of school, Fred enjoys singing, dancing, reading, and hiking.

* **February 2014**

**On-Campus Student: Kirk Cusick**

Kirk Cusick is a graduate student from Salina, Kansas. He is in his second year in the Masters of Liberal Studies program with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. His most enjoyable class was LDRS 640, Principles of Civic Leadership. Kirk explains, "If a student will listen, this class has the power to inspire one beyond what they have previously seen as their limitations. It captures the unyielding hope, strength, and courage of movement leaders. In a way, that makes students do some real soul searching. It makes a student ask, "Is it possible that I am called by what John Lewis labeled "the Spirit of History" and if so, do I have the capacity to answer the calling?"" It is because of this class and his passion for civic leadership and community organizing that he chose to pursue this degree. He continues to describe, "The citizens of our communities absolutely have to take their power back. We have to stop complaining about the world that is being handed to us, and recognize the collective power we have to make the world we would be proud to hand to the next generation. The principles taught in community organizing can teach us how to do this."Kirk is the president of Students for a Sustainable Earth. He developed a garden on campus to help teach the children in the Tiger Tots Nurtury Center about caring for the Earth. Kirk explains that he is "a naturalist, and loves doing anything that connects (him) or helps connect others to Mother Earth." He acts on this by organizing citizens in his community to effect change, helps develop renewable energy in his community, and sets up neighborhood gardens in poor areas to help neighbors take charge of their lives. In his spare time he enjoys working with wood from tree to finished piece and gardening organically in his own garden.

**Virtual Student: Chance Bulmer**

Chance Bulmer is a junior from Andover, KS who is working toward an Organizational Leadership degree. He started out as a business major but found himself wanting classes that dealt with leading and building relationships with co-workers. He said, "After my first Introduction to Leadership class I was hooked." He found the concepts and research very intriguing. His favorite class was LDRS 310. Even though 310 was the most challenging class so far, he found that challenge to be a self-rewarding experience. Chance is involved in the Quest Leadership Program and the Center for Civic Leadership. Outside of school his hobbies include cooking, coin collecting, sports, coaching, and book collecting.

**International Student: Luo Bingqi (Lisa)**

Lou Bingqi is a senior from Anshan, China who is currently working toward a major in Organizational Leadership. She chose to get involved with the department because the classes that she takes here help her develop the characteristics of a leader. Her favorite class has been LDRS 420: Women and Leadership. When talking about the class she said, "It has broadened my vision and made me believe that females can perform as well as males do." Outside of class, she is involved with the Alternative Weekend in Wichita, volunteer work, and the Model United Unions club. Her hobbies include playing the piano, table tennis, and swimming.

* **March 2014**

**On-Campus Student: Tyler Hayes**

Tyler Hayes is a senior from McCook, Nebraska, who is working toward a major in Organizational Leadership and a minor in International Studies. He decided to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies through his research before visiting campus. After he visited campus and met the faculty, he knew it was a good fit. He is involved in the Wooster Place Community Council and is treasurer for Student Veteran's Association. Currently, Tyler's favorite Leadership class is LDRS 450: Advanced Leadership Behaviors. Tyler said, "We had a great group in this class and the interaction made the class! Our instructor was able to keep us engaged as a class and I think we all understood the material at the end." In his spare time, Tyler enjoys technology and explains, "I have to try and stay up with the latest developments" he also enjoys "trying to stay in shape."

**Virtual Student: Victoria Antle**

Congratulations Victoria!

**International Student: Mingwei He**

Mingwei He is a sophomore from Harbin, China, who is working toward a degree in General Studies. When asked why Mingwei chose to get involved with Leadership Studies, she explained, "I have never heard of Leadership in China but I feel it's important no matter which area you are involved in, thus I'd like to know more about it." Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts with Dr. Christie Brungardt. Mingwei said that Christie "made the theory more vivid and impressing" which attracted her to "explore it deeper and deeper." In her spare time, Mingwei says she "enjoys taking a walk with light music under the sunshine." She especially enjoys walking on the streets of Hays because it allows her to feel closer to the city. She also enjoys doing volunteer activities for another way to be involved in the community. Mingwei explains she volunteers because "(she) likes to know and feel more about the place where (she) is living."

* **April 2014**

**On-Campus Student: Trent Russell**

Trent Russell is a freshman from Baldwin City who is working toward a degree in Social Work and a Leadership Studies Certificate. Trent became involved with the department through his L3 (Live. Learn. Lead.) Learning Community. He said his favorite class so far has been Introduction to Leadership Behavior because, "the fun activities we do to make connections to what we are learning." On campus he is involved in both the L3 Learning Community and Christian Challenge. His hobbies include hanging out with friends and playing guitar.

**Virtual Student: Tena Green**

Tena Green is an online student from Cleveland, TN. She is working toward a major in Leadership Studies and an MLS degree. Tena chose Leadership Studies because the administrative position that she is preparing for requires a master's degree and the leadership program fit very well with the new responsibilities she would be taking on. Her favorite class so far is a tie between LDRS 800, 807, and 810 since she really enjoys learning about the theory, scientific method, and research endeavors of leadership that are built into the courses. Tena said, "Faculty allow for assignments to relate to our profession, and that is what has helped me solidify what I have learned from the texts and readings for those classes." Tena currently works as a respiratory therapist in the clinic and ER sections of a hospital. In addition to work and class her hobbies include traveling and swimming. Tena's YMCA membership allows her to swim in both the summer and winter. Tena explained that traveling is in her blood She started when she was young and has been a traveler ever since and has visited every continent except Australia and Antarctica.

**International Student: Yuchen Zhang (Rex)**

Congratulations Rex!

* **September 2014**

**On-Campus Student: Ashley Moore**

Ashley Moore is a senior from Hays, working toward a degree in Organizational Leadership. Ashley became involved with the department when she took LDRS 300 and started to learn what a leader is and does. She is a member of various organizations on campus including, National Honor Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi, and she is the Vice President of Membership and Development and Alumnae Relation for Alpha Gamma Delta. She says taking leadership classes has taught her how to become a better leader in all of these organizations. Ashley's hobbies include snow skiing, knitting, reading/writing and crafting.

**Virtual Student: Connie Duffey**

Connie Duffey is a senior from Salina, working toward a degree in Organizational Leadership. Connie became involved with the department when she was working on a dual degree and had to limit her classes. She decided to focus on leadership. By doing this, Connie says her mind has been opened to a greater understanding of society. Animals are very important to her; she has spent time training service dogs. Connie also volunteers in her free time.

**International Student: Kaiming Tian (Peter)**

Congratulations Peter!

* **October 2014**

**On-Campus Student: Brenna Johnson**

Brenna is a senior from Beloit, working on a degree in Global Leadership. Brenna became involved with the department while working towards a certificate. She decided to change her major because she liked her classes so much. On campus Brenna has been actively involved with countless organizations including Color Guard, Special Olympics, Catholic Disciples, and University Activities Board. She has also been a Crossroads Retreat Director, Orientation Leader, and a "Big" through Big Brother Big Sisters. She also had the opportunity to study abroad in China and direct an international service-learning trip to Costa Rica. Outside of school Brenna likes to spend time with family and friends, read, volunteer, and travel. Faith is a priority for her, so she also spends a lot of time in and around religious events.

**Virtual Student: Brittany Rojas**

Brittany is a senior from Dodge City working on a degree in Organizational Leadership. She became involved with the department because she thought it would help her with her future career goal of helping others in their own careers and leading them towards success. She felt the department best suited her personality, experiences, and what she wanted for her future. Of all the classes Brittany has taken so far, her favorite one is Leadership and Team Dynamics. In that class she liked being able to work in teams with peers to improve leadership skills in real life application scenarios. Brittany is a part of the National Society of Leadership and Success, as well as the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Outside of school, Brittany likes to spend time with her son, helping him learn. They like to spend time outdoors, doing arts and crafts, and reading.

* **November 2014**

**On-Campus Student: Dominique Davis**

Dominique Davis is a senior from Kansas City, Missouri. His current major is General Studies, and he is working on a certificate in Leadership Studies. Dominique's favorite class so far has been Women in Leadership. He says this class has helped him realize gender inequalities and how to try to help solve this issue. He also says this class has made him closer to his mother. Dominique got involved with the department because of his advisor. Dominique says the department has shown him how to better himself, build a resume that is applicable to any career, and how to fight with words. When Dominique is not focused on school, he works as well as volunteers in Overland Park, teaching kids how to play basketball.

**Virtual Student: James Myers**

James Myers is a second year Graduate student from Dayton, Ohio working on a degree in Organizational Leadership. He currently works full- time as a law -enforcement professional. He became involved with the department and chose to continue his education in Leadership Studies because he felt it would expand his employment opportunities after he retires from law enforcement, and it will help his transition into the private sector much easier. James also thinks a degree in Leadership Studies is highly applicable to his current role in law enforcement. So far, James' favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 801- Theoretical Foundations of Leadership because this class was thought provoking and informative. James also says his instructor, Jeni McRay, does a fantastic job keeping students challenged, involved, and informed. When James is not focusing on work or school he likes to spend time with his family as well as play men's competitive softball and do home remodeling/renovation projects.

**International Student: Xiyi Sun (Anna)**

Xiyi Sun is a junior and currently a Leadership Studies major from Hangzhou City, China. Here, most of her friends call her Anna. This is Anna's first year at Fort Hays and she has become involved with organizations on campus including the International Student Union. She has also participated in Swipe Out Hunger and Self Defense workshops as well as been part of the LDRS 310 team- Water Conservation Project. Anna wanted to get involved in the department because she thought it could help her find and overcome her weaknesses and explore her potential. So far her favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 450 because it is meaningful and the content is practical and applicable. Outside of school, Anna likes to play sports, swim, and exercise. She also loves nature and has been collecting stones and leaves since she was in middle school. Another activity Anna enjoys is mountain climbing. Once, she climbed Mount Tai, a 5,069 foot tall mountain. Starting at 11pm, she climbed for more than five hours and watched the sun rise; this experience is one of her most unforgettable.

* **February 2015**

**On-Campus Student: Whitney Swender**

Whitney is a senior from Garden City working towards a major in Leadership Studies. Whitney first became involved with the department because the faculty and staff made her feel welcome. She also liked the fact that Leadership Studies is applicable to any coursework and work situation, as well as family, life, and employment. So far her favorite Leadership classes have been Women in Leadership and Civic Leadership. Both classes have been instrumental in Whitney's understanding of what Leadership represents. Because of her classwork, she has a greater appreciation for the many challenges that individuals serve when placed in Leadership positions. Outside of the classroom, Whitney likes to attend Encounter and FHSU exercise classes, spend time with family and friends, play intramural sports, as well as play golf. She is a former FHSU cheerleader and is also involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Virtual Student: Jerry Yates**

Jerry is a second year General Studies major from Springfield, Missouri. He is a returning student in the Virtual College and is currently pursuing a certificate in Leadership Studies. Jerry got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies by searching for available online degrees with Fort Hays and thought a Leadership Studies certificate would be a valuable thing to have. As he read about former students in the department, he saw a lot of himself in them. Careers they had included ministers, HR managers, and retail managers. At one point or another Jerry has had all of these jobs. At the moment he is employed as an Accounting Office Associate at a Wal-Mart, and is next in line to be interviewed for one of twenty Human Resource Manager Positions. He hopes the leadership class he is currently taking will help him become a successful leader. He likes the class because it challenges what he previously thought about leadership. In his free time, Jerry likes to play the guitar, write poetry, and carve wooden figures, canes, and plaques. He also likes to draw cartoons and portraits. He even wrote a book last summer titled *Growing in Gracing*. Jerry says it is about "the need for individuals to grow in showing unconditional love, and ways of making that a part of our daily lives.

* **March 2015**

**On-Campus Student: Jade Singleton-Reich**

Jade is a junior from Denver, Colorado working toward a major in Leadership Studies. Currently on campus she is the president of the Center for Language and Culture and the president of Tigers4Ever. She involved with much more on campus as well. In her free time, Jade likes to read, cook, bake, play sports, and make crafts. She got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she had made a lot of connections with leadership students as well as the department faculty, and the classes she has taken so far have kept her interest. She has taken LDRS 300 and LDRS 302. She says both these classes peak her interest and she is able to stay focused. She has enjoyed these classes more than her other classes combined.

**Virtual Student: Tim Loeffelholz**

Tim is working towards his Master's degree in Organizational Leadership, he is from Sinsinawa Wisconsin. He is a member of the International Leadership Association and is on the Dubuque Days of Caring Steering Committee, he also likes to golf, garden, cook and more. He has two step- daughters and one ten month old granddaughter. Tim got involved with the Leadership Studies Department because he wanted to expand on what he already knew. He has been the manager of an IT department for the last ten years and he wants to start a consulting business. He says to do this, he needs leadership skills. So far his favorite class is LDRS 800 (Organizational Leadership). He enjoyed learning about the four frames of an organization and now looks at all organizations in this manner and it helps him truly understand their goals.

**International Student: Xiaoqi Liu**

Congratulations Xiaoqi!

* **April 2015**

**On-Campus Student: Tiffani Clark**

Tiffani is a sophomore from Denver majoring in Organizational Leadership. On campus she is involved in the marching band, Success, the Society of Leadership, and Encounter. Outside of school, Tiffani likes to hang out with friends, play guitar, swim, and be outside. She decided to get involved with the Leadership Department because she received a brochure about it and thought it would be something she would enjoy. She likes that the degree will allow her to go into many different fields and the things she has learned are applicable to everyday life. So far, Tiffani's favorite leadership class has been LDRS 310. She enjoyed it because it allowed her to put what she had learned in her previous leadership classes into action. She had a great team and loved working with the Red Flag Campaign. Tiffani says it was a great experience and she learned a lot.

**Virtual Student: JD Ettore**

J.D Ettore is a Leadership Graduate student from Fort Scott, Kansas. Outside of school J.D. is very involved doing community service with civic organizations in Fort Scott. He also enjoys mentoring high school and college students. J.D. loves to travel and spend time with his family; in the summer, he enjoys playing golf with his two sons. He got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because he spent the last 20 years in leadership positions at his job in marketing and promotions; he says he craves the knowledge to become a better leader. J.D.'s favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 810, Qualitative Research Methods, taught by Dr. Dunn. He says this class allowed him to learn a lot about his topic as well about the people involved in his case study. Dr. Goertzen did all of the online lectures for the class, J.D. says the two of them make a powerful team. For J.D. this class was a rewarding and he will never forget it.

* **September 2015**

**On-Campus Student: Emily Brandt**

Emily is a Political Science major from Beloit pursuing a Certificate in Leadership Studies. She chose to get involved with the Department because she has held leadership positions in the organizations she has been a part of in her life. Emily had heard about the certificate from a friend and knew she wanted to advance skills she already had. Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 300. She says Dr. Greenleaf made the class very hands-on and it was eye-opening for her. These things combined took part in making the class so interesting. Due to that class, she knows everyone has the ability to be a leader and what characteristics a good leader has. Outside of school, Emily likes to watch Netflix with her roommates, spend time with her family, volunteer, and go to art museums. On campus, she is involved with 12 organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, and Student Government Association.

**Virtual Student: Matt Heiman**

Matt is from Baileyville and is pursuing a Master's in Business Administration. He got involved with the department when he took LDRS 801 as an elective for his degree. He wanted to learn how to be a good leader, not just a manager. LDRS 801 has challenged Matt to look at leadership differently than he has before. He has also learned what leadership styles are most effective in different types of situations. Outside of working on school, Matt likes hunting, fishing, golfing, woodworking, and doing part time construction projects. He also enjoys spending time with his family at his brother's football games on the weekends.

**International Student: Li Yuyang (Moon)**

Congratulations Moon!

* **October 2015**

**On-Campus Student: Shelby Stewart**

Shelby is an Organizational Leadership major from Hill City. This is her junior year at FHSU. On campus Shelby is on the Leadership Team and is a LifeGroup Leader for Encounter- a college ministry. She also is a VIP Student Ambassador and the Student Marketing Coordinator for the Department of Leadership Studies. Shelby decided to get involved with the Department because its degree is very diverse and can fit into many career paths. She loves the flexibility and skills it offers for her future. So far, LDRS 450, Advanced Leadership Behaviors has been her favorite because it involves a lot of self-reflection and applying material learned into her life as a follower and as a leader. Through all of her Leadership classes, Shelby has found herself looking at situations differently and her eyes have opened to how the information that she has been taught is used in organizations and everyday life. Outside of school and work, Shelby likes spending time with her family and do things outside like horseback riding, fishing, boating, riding on 4 wheelers, and hiking.

**Virtual Student: Robert Neuman**

Robert is from Mystic, Connecticut and is in his final year of school perusing a Master's of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. Outside of school, Robert says, "spending time with my four awesome kids takes up most of my time." His oldest daughter is 7, he has 5 year old twin daughters, and a son who just turned 2. Besides spending time with them, he enjoys spending time outside, reading, and playing computer games. Robert decided to get involved with the department because he is an active duty Air Force Officer and wanted to hone his leadership skills. He chose Fort Hays because of the "outstanding graduate program and top notch reputation as a military-friendly school." His favorite class so far has been LDRS 811- Organizational Intervention Strategies. He really enjoyed working on a project for this class with a group of classmates. He says the projects made the class relatable/ applicable to everyday lives of the students. Robert says this experience was one of the most rewarding of his time as a Fort Hays student.

* **November 2015**

**On-Campus Student: Janna Wilkinson**

Janna is a senior from Anthony majoring in Organizational Leadership. On campus, she is involved with the Women's Leadership Project. She says she "coordinates various events on campus that are designed to educate, inspire, and empower women to be the leaders of tomorrow." Outside of school, Janna's hobbies include running, cooking, shopping, and scrapbooking. When she changed her major last year, Janna was introduced to the chair of the department, Jill Arensdorf. Jill spoke with her about Organizational Leadership, and Janna decided this was the major for her. An appealing aspect of Organizational Leadership for her is that it applies to any career as well as life in general. Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 420, Women in Leadership. She says this class gave her a clear understanding of what leadership represents. According to Janna, it also changed her life by opening her eyes to challenges she will face as a female leader in the future.

**Virtual Student: Thaddeus Wilson**

Congratulations Thaddeus!

**International Student: Li Yiqun (Edward)**

Congratulations Edward!