

# 2011-2021 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)**

Congratulations, 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 nation (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 Nations 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!

## February 2016

### On-Campus Student: Ashley Templeton

Ashley is a junior Organizational Leadership major from Wilson. On campus she is very involved; she is a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, Student Government Association, and Stripes for Hope, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Order of Omega, and she is an Orientation Leader. Outside of school, Ashley owns a photography business. She spends much of her time working with clients, but she also likes to take pictures for fun. Ashley also loves to read and spend as much time with family and friends as she can. She chose to get involved with the Department because she has always been involved in leadership positions. She found out about Organizational Leadership during her senior year of high school and thought it would be a great major. Ashley says "it has honestly been the best decision I could have made." So far her favorite class has been LDRS 420 Women in Leadership. She enjoyed this class because she loved the content and being able to openly talk about women's issues, powerful women, and women's leadership history.

## March 2016

### On-Campus Student: Damion Cooper

Damion is a junior Health and Human Performance major with an emphasis in Sports Management from Salina. He is pursuing a certificate in Leadership Studies. On campus, he is part of many organizations including men's soccer, Encounter, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Student-Athlete Advisory Council, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Outside of school, Damion likes to dance, mentor, teach, and play basketball. He got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because he wanted to gain knowledge and experience in leadership because he knows he will need these skills and experiences in his future career. Damion also wanted to grow as a leader, servant, and follower. He felt the Department of Leadership Studies had everything he needed to learn and experience opportunities for him to grow into the best leader he can be. So far, his favorite leadership class has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. Damion

says it allows him to see the reality of who he is as a leader. The service-learning project allows him to engage with the community, expand his network, and he has the opportunity to work with professionals. Damion says "This class gives me the full nine yards to reach the tenth and not look back!"

### **On-Campus Student: Molly Madrid**

Congratulations Molly!

### **On-Campus Student: Emily Brandt**

Emily is a Political Science major from Beloit pursuing a Certificate in Leadership Studies. On campus, she is involved with Student Government Association, the Political Science Club, Alpha kappa Psi, the Public Safety and Awareness Committee, Fort Hays Honor Society, Heart and Mind learning community, Kansas Young Democrats, Women's Chorale, Brass Choir, National Residence Hall Honorary, Big Brothers and Sisters and she is an Orientation Leader. In many of these organizations, she holds a leadership position. Emily chose to get involved with the department because she has held many leadership positions and been told of her strong leadership skills. She was curious what made her a good leader and how to improve skills she naturally had. She heard about the certificate from a friend and knew it was an important step in advancing skills and developing new ones. Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. She likes that the class is a total immersion project because not many classes on campus offer that. She says this class has been eye opening and does a good job of tying the first 2 certificate classes together. Outside of school, Emily likes to watch Netflix with her roommates, spend time with her family, volunteer, and garden.

### **On-Campus Student: Patrick McCluskey**

Patrick is a junior from Great Bend majoring in Botany and perusing a Leadership Studies Certificate. On campus he is involved in Variety Fitness, outside of school he likes to play sports and video games and go hiking. Patrick got involved with the department because he thought it would be a good opportunity to set himself apart from others in his field of study and grow as an individual. So far, Patrick's favorite Leadership class has been

LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. He has enjoyed this class because he has met great people and has the opportunity to act in the community and make a difference in an important way.

### **On-Campus Student: Kylee Loneker**

Congratulations Kylee!

### **Virtual Student: Jackie Ruder**

Congratulations Jackie!

### **International Student: Yuejia Qian (Vanessa)**

Vanessa is a junior Organizational Leadership major from China. On campus, she is involved with the FHSU Chinese Students and Scholars Association planning events. Vanessa has also taken part in One Billion Rising held by the Women's Leadership Project and this semester her LDRS 310 team is working with Stripes for Hope to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In her free time, Vanessa likes to read, watch movies, and play basketball. She also likes learning languages; right now she is studying Korean and Japanese. Vanessa chose to get involved with the department because all organizations need effective leaders and followers, the department also provides her with many opportunities to stretch her professional skills. She also says Leadership Studies has helped her develop self-reflection and increase her self-awareness. So far her favorite class has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies, because it is a service learning class and she has the opportunity to practice her leadership skills and problem solve in different real world situations. Vanessa says this class is good for her to enrich her experiences, civic responsibility, and personal leadership skills.

 **April 2016**

### **On-Campus Student: Steve Dinkel**

Steve is a General Studies major from Hays perusing a Leadership Studies Certificate. He has gone to school at Fort Hays on and off for a number of years. When asked what his hobbies outside of school are, he said "with a wife, four children, one grandchild, completing a church building renovation, and serving on the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance Executive Committee, going to school is my hobby." He says he also enjoys gardening, traveling and once a month, he gets together with a group of pastors on campus to pray for students, faculty, and staff. Steve chose to get involved with the department because Leadership is an evolving subject. He also says leading in a changing culture is more challenging every day. He is a pastor at Liberty Foursquare Church and he thought Leadership Studies could give him skills to effectively lead in a constantly changing culture. Steve also likes learning alongside the Leadership students and likes the in class experience. So far his favorite class has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. He liked this class because the textbook and lectures give context to the evolution of Leadership Studies.

### **Virtual Student: Andrea DuBois**

Andrea is from Halstead perusing a degree in General Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies. Andrea says she does not have a favorite Leadership class because they have all been enjoyable, but, if she had to choose, she would pick LDRS 306- Leadership and Team Dynamics. She liked this class because working on a team can be complicated and the class provides the tools and real life examples that can be applied to these complicated situations. She became involved with the Department because it aligns with her current career and the skills the Department nurtures are skills everyone has. Andrea is passionate to share what she learns with others she works with, especially those who are starting out their career and wanting to become great leaders. She says "there is immense fulfillment in watching someone you know inspire others." Outside of school, Andrea is involved with the high school in her community. She has fun organizing fundraisers for the their band, judging debate and forensic contests and being a member of the Dragon Backers which helps fund school activities that may not happen otherwise.

### **International Student: Yueying Chen (Jessica)**

Congratulations Jessica!

## May 2016

### On-Campus Student: Tera Mills

Tera is a senior Organizational Leadership major from Eudora. On campus, she is involved with Encounter, a student ministry through service and photography. Outside of school, Tera's hobbies are spending time outdoors (fishing, swimming, and hiking), hanging out with friends, crafting, and photography. She got involved with the Department because when she transferred to FHSU from community college, she wanted a department that felt like a family. She also wanted something that could be versatile and open doors for the rest of her academic/ personal life. So far, her favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 670- Leadership and Personal Development. She liked this class because it gave her the opportunity to grow. She was able to build and reflect on the past and future through discussion with classmates and self-reflection. Tera liked that she was also able to truly get to get know her classmates. She says "they became like family and it was truly amazing."

### Virtual Student: Ricardo Paniagua

Ricardo is a third year Organizational Leadership major from San Diego, California. He works full-time at the University of California, San Diego; there he is a member of the Chancellors Advisory Council on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issues and the Undocumented Student Services Workgroup. Every year, he participates in the campus-wide United Way Campaign, which focuses on providing literacy programs for elementary schools. Outside of school, Ricardo's hobbies include teaching, practicing yoga, and writing, going to concerts, internet DJing, and spending time at the parks and beaches so he can enjoy the sunny Southern California weather. Ricardo became involved with the Department because he found Leadership to be a fundamental tool in any aspect of life. He says "the curriculum offers a dynamic range of courses that really suit my interests and professional goals." His favorite class so far has been IDS 401- Ethics in the Professions and Business. In this class they tackled ideas of a leader living from the inside and projecting outward and it highlighted the type of leader everyone should strive to be.

## **September 2016**

### **On Campus Student: Brianna Schuck**

Congratulations Brianna!

### **Virtual Student: Renee DeMallie**

Renee is an MPS student in Organizational Leadership from Portland, Oregon. In her career, Renee holds leadership positions. She serves on the local and national levels of the American Dental Hygienist Association (ADHA) and recently had the opportunity to attend a dental hygiene leadership summit in Pennsylvania. There she learned about leadership within her profession. Renee always knew she wanted to get her Master's degree but she didn't want it in Dental Hygiene and Education like most dental hygienists. When she found the MPS in Organizational Leadership here at FHSU, she knew it was the right program for her. So far, Renee's favorite class has been Theoretical Foundations of Leadership. She is currently taking this class but wishes it was the first class she took because she feels it is the foundation for the degree program. Outside of school, Renee likes to cook, try new restaurants, and run; her favorite running distance is a half-marathon.

### **International Student: Li (Neil) Jiapeng**

Congratulations Neil!

## **October 2016**

### **On-campus student: Jacy Buchholz**

Jacy is a senior Organizational Leadership major from WaKeeney. On-campus she is involved with Sigma Alpha, a professional agriculture sorority and is the chair of the Fellowship committee. Outside of school, Jacy enjoys spending time with her family and

friends, going to church, going to events in the community and on campus, and painting. She wanted to get involved with the department because she had an old roommate who was an Organizational Leadership major and was excited and passionate about her classes. At the time, Jacy did not feel the same about her major so she took a risk and changed her major. She instantly fell in love with the classes and positive and uplifting atmosphere. She felt more engaged and appreciated the application to real life each class provided. So far, Jacy's favorite class has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. She says "even though this has been my most challenging class, the friendships and networks I made in the class will last a lifetime." This class challenged her comfort zone and she was able to become more comfortable speaking in public. She also gained experience and skills to work in non-profit. Jacy also says "it was an honor to be a part of something bigger than me and it gave me a sense of what it is like to be an effective change agent."

### **Virtual Student: John Saffold**

John is a junior from Detroit majoring in Organizational Leadership. Outside of school, he likes to spend time with his children, play hockey, golf, and bowl. He is also very involved in his church. John volunteers for many community programs his church supports. He got involved with the department because he wanted to learn more about the leadership landscape and about how he can be an effective leader in organizations he serves. John has only taken one leadership class thus far- LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. He enjoys this class because he enjoys learning about theories, concepts, and models that are presented. John says he is looking forward to learning and growing in his understanding of leadership.

### **International Student: Shengyi Wang (Victoria)**

Victoria is originally from Da Lian China and is minoring in Leadership Studies while earning a degree in Finance. On campus, she is involved in the yoga club and swim club. Outside of school, she likes to draw, swim, and write. She likes being involved with the department because she can learn many skills that will help her in her future career. Her knowledge also allows her to know how to create good relationships with team members. In her current class, she feels relaxed and can learn in a fun environment.

## November 2016

### On-Campus Student: Kaylie Towles

Kaylie is a 5th year senior from Wichita earning a degree in Organizational Leadership. She is very involved on campus; she is a member of Delta Zeta sorority, First Year Experience, Stripes for Hope, Encounter, and Tigers in Service. Outside of school she likes to spend time with friends, craft, watch movies, go to church, and attend events on and off campus. Kaylie got involved with the department because she wanted to help people on a personal level that enriches their lives. She also saw how friendly the faculty and staff were while hearing a few friends talk about their experiences in the department. So far, Kaylie's favorite class has been LDRS 420- Women and Leadership. She didn't realize the craving she had for learning about the struggles women have gone through until taking this course. From taking this class she understands the injustices of the world and will fight to educate all people on current issues; she says her views on the world have changed for good because of this class.

### Virtual Student: Ryan Strutt

Ryan is a junior from Phillipsburg seeking a degree in General Studies with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Outside of school he likes to spend time with his 2 sons and daughter at the local park in McPherson where he currently lives. He also enjoys biking around town. Ryan says he loves spending weekends with his wife in Wichita and traveling when he has the time. Ryan wanted to get involved with the department because he wanted his studies to have a direct impact on his career. The classes he has taken are the most relevant and appropriate courses he has ever taken. He also says the benefits of these classes are instant and come with interest. According to Ryan, his leadership courses have reshaped the way he views everyone around him in a good way. Ryan's favorite class so far is LDRS 302- Introduction to Leadership Behaviors and LDRS 306 Leadership and team Dynamics. He says this semester, in those classes, he has been able to build a solid foundation in understanding leadership and began applying what he has learned in the workplace.

### **International Student: Xiaotian Chu**

Xiaotian is a senior Organizational Leadership major from Zhengzhou. On campus, Xiaotian works in the Student Union and is part of the SIAS Rhino Drama Club. Outside of school, his favorite hobbies are traveling and learning about and experiencing different cultures. He chose to get involved with the department because the world is becoming more globalized and he believes relationships and teamwork are a significant part of that. Xiaotian says leadership is the product of this era therefore it is important to know to apply to your life. So far, his favorite class has been LDRS 650- Principles of Organizational Leadership. In the course, he liked thinking about organizations in different ways. He felt like it was opening a door to a new world for him and will be useful in his future.

## **December 2016**

### **On-Campus Student: Aimee Johnson**

Aimee is a sophomore from Wichita majoring in Communication Studies. Currently, Aimee is working toward a Leadership Studies Certificate. Aimee balances her school work while holding a job working 30-35 hours a week. Outside of school, Aimee likes to read, play music, drink coffee, relax and spend time with family and friends. Her freshman year, Aimee was introduced to the Leadership Studies Certificate in a general education course. It sounded interesting so she talked to her advisor about it and he thought she would enjoy the classes and told her it would look great on a resume. So far, Aimee's favorite class has been LDRS 300, she says her teacher (Justin Greenleaf) is amazing and he knows how to make the class interesting and fun.

### **Virtual Student: Christopher Yonish**

Christopher is from Shippensburg Pennsylvania and is in his first year of the Master in Professional Studies program. His emphasis in the program is Organizational Leadership. Outside of school, Christopher loves coaching and mentoring student athletes and has coached football, basketball, and baseball for over 20 years. He is proud of everything his football team has accomplished this year. Christopher is a graduate of Penn State and he and his son go to every home football game. Christopher also likes to spend time hunting and fishing with his son and daughter. Christopher got involved with the department

because he wanted to achieve more through his work coaching. When he contacted the Department of Leadership Studies, Christopher was impressed that all of his questions were answered so quickly. Christopher's favorite class so far has been LDRS 300. He never realized leadership is still a developing field. His teacher for the course (Seth Kastle) has been an awesome professor and is very helpful in answering questions.

### **International Student: Hong sheng Sun (Oliver)**

Oliver is a junior majoring in Organizational Leadership and minoring in International Finance at FHSU partner school SNU in China. On campus, Oliver tutors in the writing center and is active in the English Club organizing activities. Outside of school, Oliver enjoys sporting events like the Olympics, playing computer games, watching political television programs and playing the piano. He got involved with the department because he was studying electrical engineering at a school in Singapore and due to issues he faced with other students there due to cultural differences, he decided to go home and study Organizational Leadership. His favorite class so far has been LDRS 640- Principles of Civic Leadership. In this class he was able to learn new ideas on how changes and revolutions could be successfully initiated. Oliver says he knows "the government in China is more sensitive to civic movements and though I won't be a civic leader like Martian Luther King Jr., I can apply these concepts after graduation to my organization or even my community.

## **February 2017**

### **On-Campus Student: Megan Rust**

Megan is a sophomore from Leavenworth majoring in Organizational Leadership and earning a certificate in Global Leadership. On campus, she is involved in Honors College, KAMS/Honors College Executive Council, VALUE, Fort Hays Honor Society, and is an Orientation Leader. Outside of school, Megan's hobbies are photography, reading, and serving others. Megan got involved with the department because there is no direct path to become a missionary. Leadership Studies gives her the tools to be an effective leader and enough confidence in her abilities as a leader to take necessary risks to create real, lasting change. She wants to change the world and the Department of Leadership Studies is equipping her with everything she needs to do it. So far, her favorite class has been the VALUE class. This school year, the class has become a family that pushes each other to

succeed. Megan has gotten the unique opportunity to conduct research as an undergraduate and this responsibility has pushed her to make the most of her time in class. Even though it is stressful at times, she's gotten experience she could not find in another class at this, or any other, university.

### **Virtual Student: Charmine Chambers**

Charmine is a second year Master of Professional Studies student from Topeka. She has participated in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk for several years and she enjoys reading, scrapbooking, and exercising. Charmine got involved in the department because she has not always been in similar career fields and wanted a flexible degree with application to the business world. When looking at the course section, the classes interested her and she was able to see the real world application. Charmine says she could not choose what class has been her favorite. She has enjoyed them all for different reasons and she has had an "ah-ha" moment in each class.

### **International Student: Lv Xinying (Rebecca)**

Rebecca is a junior from Laiwu, Shandong Province, China and attending Shenyang Normal University. She is working towards a degree in Organizational Leadership. On campus, Rebecca is involved in Ant Studio. Ant Studio has two businesses, Ant Coffee and Ant Kitchen, where students can practice professional skills and gain work experience. Rebecca has been able to learn a lot from being involved in Ant Studio especially because she is interested in something like this for a career. Ant Studio teaches Rebecca how to communicate and collaborate efficiently, how to see other's strengths and be able to use these strengths in a team. Rebecca has many hobbies including traveling and shopping with friends, drawing, roller-skating, playing the ukulele, and practicing English. Rebecca says studying leadership is essential to promote the development of society. So far, her favorite leadership class has been Leadership and Personal Development (LDRS 670) because what she has learned has helped her identify and build her strengths and identify and improve her weaknesses.

### **On-Campus Student: Dustin Stanley**

Dustin is a sophomore, Organizational Leadership major from Bennington. On-campus, Dustin is involved with Christian Challenge as part of the leadership team. There he leads life group Bible studies and helps run events and Tuesday night messages. Dustin is also involved with intramurals on-campus because, "who doesn't like a little competition?" Dustin also likes to ride bikes, play a variety of sports, have friends over, and work with students at a local Elementary School. Dustin chose to get involved with the department because Leadership is an area he has always appreciated. He says "this major applies to my life right now and the ideas are not farfetched, rather they are tangible and applicable." So far, his favorite class has been LDRS 460, Global Leadership, because it has increased his perspective and awareness while helping him grow. Dustin plans to travel overseas this summer and this class has humbled him. Dustin says this class has been great preparation for his summer plans.

### **Virtual Student: Cathy Roads**

Congratulations, Cathy!

### **International Student: Liu Keye (Cathy)**

Cathy is a senior from Shenyang, Liao Ning China double majoring in Organizational Leadership and International Finance. Outside of school, she likes to play Ping-Pong and the piano. Cathy got involved with the department because students can build different ways to think about the world, it prepares students to be better employees and develop leadership abilities. The leadership abilities the program develops are abilities American universities require of foreign students applying for graduate school. Cathy plans to pursue a higher degree and appreciates that she has already practiced these abilities and will be a competitive applicant. Her favorite leadership class has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. Her team worked with the Liaoyang Welfare House throughout the semester to do a fundraising event to buy books for the children at this orphanage. Cathy recognizes not many people are involved in their communities and this course gave her the ability to do that. She loved the class because it gave her the opportunity to be a part of her community and gain valuable leadership experience.

## April 2017

### **On-Campus Student: Collette West**

Collette is a junior Organizational Leadership major from Centerville, Utah. On-campus, she is on the softball team and in the women's choir and the National Society for Leadership and Success. Outside of school, she likes to hike, ski, sing, play the piano, do CrossFit, and hang out with friends and family. Collette decided to get involved with the department because leadership has had a profound impact on her life. She is excited to continue to learn about how to lead and collaborate with others because she believes good leadership is a powerful force for promoting change that improves the world for everyone. So far her favorite class has been LDRS 460, Global Leadership. Collette says this class opened her eyes to how much culture and complexity of global situations play into this type of leadership. She says this class also taught her how knowing yourself is important components when interacting with different cultures.

### **Virtual Student: Annette Webb**

Annette is a General Studies major from Great Bend working toward a Certificate in Leadership Studies. In her community, Annette is involved with Crosspoint Church as part of the worship team and will work anywhere the church needs her to. Annette says her passion is helping others. Her hobbies include reading and spending time outside. Annette has four children; a 7 year old girl, 3 year old girl and twin 1 year old boys. She loves watching them play in the yard and talking to them about their day. She also says any peace and quiet time she can get is a hobby. Annette got involved with the department because she is an active participant in the Crosspoint Church worship team and has always wanted to be a problem solver and a leader. Annette says she always wanted to be a princess, but not the dress-up kind. The kind that saves people, fights in battles, and wins wars. Annette wants to be an important role model in her community and make the world a better place and Leadership Studies has taught her how to do that. Her favorite class has been LDRS 302, Introduction to Leadership Behaviors, because it taught her great ways to work with others and solve problems.

### **International Student: Zhang Lin (Kira)**

Kira comes from Zhumadian, Henan Province, China. She is a junior at SIAS

International University, and her majors are Organizational Leadership and Finance. While finishing up her degree, Kira is working toward acceptance into graduate school. On campus, Kira is a tutor in the SIAS study tutoring center because she wants to help students understand English and that it is not difficult to learn. In her free time, she likes reading in a quiet environment, playing piano or watching movies in the theater with her friends. Kira studies Leadership because she thinks Leadership Studies can help her face situations of conflict and find the most reasonable way to handle the problem. Kira believes Leadership is good to study to know how to get along with team members and influence others. Fieldwork in Leadership Studies (LDRS 310) has been her favorite class. Through this class, Kira had developed a deep understanding of the meaning of leadership. She learned more about how to work with team members, how to communicate and solve conflicts with team members, and how to influence team members.

## **May 2017**

### **On-Campus Student: Dalton Steinert**

Dalton is a senior Accounting major from Otis; he is working toward a minor in English and the Leadership Studies Certificate. On campus, he is the membership chair for Mortar Board (an honor society), the assistant- publicity coordinator for the Fort Hays Honor Society, and the president of Us 4 U. Dalton is also part of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and an Orientation and Welcome Leader. Outside of school, Dalton enjoys running, reading, and discussing anything, especially books, movies, and TV shows. He chose to get involved with the department because he realized he enjoyed leading people and thinking about different ways people can influence others. He realized he could apply the certificate to his degree and that he was interested in the concepts and framework of leadership. After talking with his advisor, he enrolled in LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. This is his favorite class from the certificate because he enjoyed the textbook and class discussions Dalton says this class deepened his interest in leadership.

### **On-Campus Student: Gao Aijing (Alice)**

Alice is a first-year graduate student working toward a degree in Higher Education

Administration (HESA). She is from Zhoukou, Henan province China. On campus, she works as a graduate assistant at the Alumni Association. Outside of school, Alice likes to hang out with her friends. She got involved with the department because she wanted to explore leadership theories and to support her practice in her future career. Her favorite class has been LDRS 802, Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership because of her instructor, Jeni McRay, is open-minded. Alice likes exchanging ideas with Jeni which helps her understand the course material.

### **Virtual Student: Monica Turner**

Monica is a junior Organizational Leadership major from Mulvane. In her community, Monica is an active volunteer, to name a few, she has volunteered with the Doc Sunback Film Festival, the Christmas Downtown Night, the Mulvane Beer and Wine Fest, and local fundraising efforts since August floods devastated her community. Monica loves spending time with her family and friends. She and her husband are very social and like to have friends over or go out with friends. Their daughter, who is a high school senior, takes after them and is always off to do something. Monica also loves to crochet, knit, spend time with her dogs, and listen to live bands every week. Monica chose to get involved with the department because she believes to change the temperature of corporate America, we have to embrace a new way of leadership. She says “we must have leaders who can embrace change and not only see its necessity but have the courage to push that change to become reality.” Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. She liked this class because it helped her articulate what she did not like about the leaders around her. She became excited about leadership because of this class and that excitement has sustained her through long nights, little sleep, and stress.

### **International Student: Mei Shiyu (Mayseri)**

Mayseri is a junior from Zheng Zhou, HeNan Province China double majoring in Organizational Leadership and Finance. On campus, she is involved with Enactus and the Student Union. She joined Enactus to improve her ability with difference companies and to open her mind during work time. In April 2014, Mayseri was chosen with three other students to represent the university at the Enactus China Henan Shanxi Region Competition. They won third place and the Maximum Cultural Award. Outside of school, she likes to take photographs while traveling and in the winter she likes to ski. She got

involved with the department because the courses can help her learn about relationships between leaders and followers and easily manage conflict as well as learn useful ways to collaborate. Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies because she experienced and received more. She realized more about the deep meaning of leadership and how to encourage and influence members and collaborate well. She also met many great people throughout her project and made friends with them.

## **June 2017**

### **International Student: Jiakai Jia (Cooper)**

Cooper is a junior from Zhengzhou, Henan, China double majoring in Organizational Leadership and Business Administration. On campus, he is involved with Enactus, in 2015 he was elected as the vice-captain and participated in 5 strategic projects with some major companies like Johnson, Chow tai Fook, Schneider Electric, and Dell. Through Enactus, he has been able to practice what he has learned in class. Cooper is also interested in animal care; he volunteers with the China Small Animal Protection Association and goes to the Animal Protection Center regularly to help the homeless dogs and cats. Cooper also likes listening to music and playing the guitar. Cooper got involved with the department because leadership is the main skill he wanted to gain from college. In the future, he would like to open his own business and it is important to know how to lead employees effectively. Cooper says leadership can be cultivated through education and he wants to increase his capability of leadership and become an effective leader through his classes. So far, Cooper's favorite class has been Principles of Civic Leadership. The content was presented in film which the instructor further explained. The relaxed classroom environment enabled Cooper to better retain the information and the feedback on the assignments analyzed the positive points and what could be improved on.

## **September 2017**

### **On-Campus Student: Jacob Korte**

Jacob is a senior from Gem, Kansas. He is a General Studies Major with a dual focus in Leadership and Art. He is working toward a Certificate in Leadership Studies and a Certificate in Global Leadership. When he is not in class, he is usually at work. In his free time, Jacob enjoys photography, drawing, and traveling. He got involved with the department because his advisor suggested he take a couple Leadership classes because they would be beneficial. After his first semester, he was hooked. Jacob says he has learned many skills in leadership courses such as building relationships, conflict resolution, and how to be an effective leader and follower. Jacob's favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 670, Leadership and Personal Development. He enjoyed the books from the course and it helped him become more confident in his leadership skills and helped him find his voice.

### **Virtual Student: Rachel Coleman**

Rachel is a junior General Studies major from Liberal, Kansas. She is excited to get back into the routine of school after a 30 year break. Rachel is working toward a Certificate in Leadership Studies. Besides completing her education, her goal is to model persistence for her three college-age children and the students at her workplace. As a virtual student she has had to cut back on many outside commitments in order to focus on her job as the marketing and PR executive director at Seward County Community College and her education. Outside of school and work, Rachel enjoys reading, gardening, sewing, drawing, writing poetry, baking, and spending time with her husband, 2 dogs, and parents. Rachel decided to get involved with the department because at her previous job as a newspaper reporter, she was exposed to many kinds of leadership. Leadership classes appealed to her because it was a way to step to the side of a specific issue, and think about how people interact and work together most effectively. Currently, she is in LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. She is relishing the exposure to classmates from all walks of life and the class has provided her with a renewed sense of optimism. Rachel says "it's totally possible to be a change agent in my local community, starting at home, work, and in everyday interactions. I've found it energizing, and want to learn more, and do more."

### **International Student: Ma Lingpei (Nicole)**

Nicole is a senior International Economy Trade major from Wugang, Pingdingshan,

Henan province, China. She is going to school at SIAS International University. On campus, she is the founder of a student organization that helps the city's stray animals. The organization has grown to 140 members. They feed stray cats and dogs and help them find new homes. To ensure there are enough resources for animals, they work with local animal hospitals and pet shops. The organization also aims to teach its members about many kinds of animals. Nicole has a passion for animals and studies them at a pet shop. One day she hopes to own her own pet shop. Nicole also loves to read- especially about animal psychology and behavior. In her readings, she has been able to better understand human behavior. So far, Nicole has enjoyed Leadership and Team Dynamics (LDRS 306) the most. In the course she learned about relationships important to leadership and that everyone is different and leaders need to be aware of followers' needs to ensure an effective, stable team.

## **October 2017**

### **On-Campus Student: Bradley Demers**

Bradley is a freshman from Osceola, Nebraska. He is majoring in Organizational Leadership and working towards a minor in Sports Management. Bradley is currently involved in Victor E Village Hall Council, Young Democrats, Student Government Association, and the Leadership Department's learning community, Live. Learn. Lead. Outside of school, Bradley likes to hang out with friends and watch college football. He got involved with Leadership Studies because he was curious about leadership and how it operates. In his high school, he was the student body resident who led him to become interested in how leadership applies around the world. His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts because his teacher, Justin, has done a phenomenal job of teaching his class information about leadership and the styles included in it. Bradley says Justin has also let students apply their knowledge which has been beneficial to everyone. Bradley says "I'm very excited to continue taking classes through the department because of my positive experiences and the relationships I've gained through my Leadership course."

### **Virtual Student: April Acosta**

April is a Management major from Wichita working toward a Certificate in Leadership Studies. Often you can find her volunteering for her son's soccer team and at his school. Outside of school, her hobbies include traveling with her family. Her favorite spots are near the ocean. She also enjoys trying new things- especially new foods. April also likes to watch movies and TV and socialize with her friends. April chose to get involved with the department because she felt strong leadership skills could be beneficial in her career and her personal life. April says "The ability to effectively lead people is something that I find to be both valuable and respected; therefore want to learn as much about it as I can." So far her favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership concepts. She says this is because this class shows how complicated leadership is and how the different theories can apply to real-life situations. April says the class has an emphasis on the idea that everyone has leadership ability- all you need is desire and motivation.

### **International Student: Sun Bo (Bo)**

Bo is a first-year Organizational Leadership major from Shenyang, China. He is going to school at Shenyang Normal University. Because he is a pilot, he aspires to be a professional Boeing 787 Dreamliner's captain. Bo says learning Leadership could motivate him to succeed in future collaborative teamwork. Bo has also learned about emotional intelligence which will be beneficial to his career. On campus, Bo is part of the Chinese FFA pilot pool. The Chinese FFA assists members in focusing on developing job skills. Bo also has applied to join the College of International Business writing center. As a candidate for the position, he will have the opportunity to help his classmates write and inspire them to work hard. Outside of school, he works on the ground practices of aviation knowledge. Bo also likes to play basketball, swim, and run. Bo says leadership can affect his daily life and influence his performance at work. Since he was curious about the major, he chose it as a major. Introduction to Leadership Concepts, LDRS 300, has been his favorite class so far. He liked learning the history and theories of leadership and that it provides a clear structure of leadership.

 **November 2017**

### **On-Campus Student: Steven Roberts**

Congratulations, Steven!

### **Virtual Student: Suzanne Sergis**

Suzanne is an Organizational Leadership major and Psychology minor from Stockton, CA. This is her junior year at Fort Hays State University. In her community, she is a mentor for nontraditional college students and a parent outreach coordinator at her children's school. Suzanne loves learning about new ideas, perspectives, and ways of growing self-awareness. Her family likes to go camping and fishing. Right now her family is involved in a major construction project. They have purchased nearly five acres and are building a home based on plans Suzanne created. She chose the Department of Leadership Studies because it integrates her current experience with an understanding of the knowledge and skills that are necessary to provide effective leadership. She said she is switching careers and a degree with a leadership focus will provide a firm foundation in whichever field she decides to pursue her next career. Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts with Jeni McRay. She liked gaining a firm understanding of the evolution of the field of leadership and exploring the ways it is growing were valuable. The class morphed what Suzanne thought about Leadership into a concrete understanding that guides her thinking in coursework and how she acts with leadership in everyday life.

### **International Student: He Tianhao (Anthony)**

Congratulations, Anthony!

### **International Student: Gao Hong (Maxwell)**

Maxwell is a senior Organizational Leadership major from Tai Yuan, Shan Xi Province China. On campus, he is involved with the Reading Association and enjoys the International Food Festival. He also enjoys reading, traveling, and photography. He likes to photograph the same subject from different angles. Maxwell says this helps improve his creative thinking skills. Maxwell likes learning about leadership because leadership helps him build relationships, solve conflicts, and maintain team dynamics. This

knowledge is useful to him because it can reduce mistakes in his work. So far, his favorite class has been Fieldwork in Leadership Studies, LDRS 310, because he could combine the theoretical knowledge with community activities and practice leadership then reflect on what he had done.

### **International Student: Jiang Wenming (Harry)**

Congratulations, Harry!

## **December 2017**

### **On-Campus Student: Luke Cox**

Luke is a senior Organizational Leadership major from Colby. On campus, he is in the National Society of Leadership and Success. His hobbies include lifting weights, listening to music, playing his guitar, and hanging out with friends. Luke chose to get involved with the department because he believed it would teach him how to be a better leader, set him apart from the average person who follows the status quo and put him in an excellent position to find a fulfilling career. His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. He enjoyed the course because it was hands-on and it allowed him to act upon a real leadership opportunity in the community.

### **Virtual Student: Brock Batley**

Congratulations, Brock!

### **International Student: Chen Yi (Beira)**

Beira is a junior from Beijing working toward a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Organizational Leadership. Her future career field is in economics, but is interested in leadership and wants to focus on educating herself about the subject in her postgraduate education. Since going to school at SIAS, she has gotten involved in many things on campus. Beira is involved in the World Academy of the Future of Women and the SIAS

Youth Volunteers (which is an organization that does community service activities). Outside of school, Beira likes to read, swim, listen to music, hike, travel, and hang out with friends. Beira enjoys the field of Leadership because she has been curious about influences and relationships between leaders and followers. She also realized leadership is essential in any company, and she wants to do something meaningful for society. So far, Beira's favorite class has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. LDRS 310 has been her favorite because the content was practical and she learned a lot from her project. Beira even says "To be honest, this project will influence my whole life because now I know HIV is a big problem for China." This class helped Beira understand and practice the knowledge she learned from course, and the content was compelling and globalized.

### **International Student: Pang Lujia (Wendy)**

Wendy is a junior Organizational Leadership major and International Economy and Trade major from Shenyang China. On campus, she enjoys practicing English with classmates. Wendy would like to get involved in more activities and organizations to improve herself. Outside of school, she loves to travel, listen to music, and dance. When traveling, Wendy says "authentic snacks are a temptation." Wendy got involved with Leadership Studies because she assumed the knowledge she would acquire would have great influence on her future job. This is especially true about what she learned about emotional intelligence and how to apply that to her life and future career. So far, her favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 306, Leadership and Team Dynamics. The challenges presented by the course gave her a new understanding of leadership and how to deal with complicated situations in the workplace.

## **February 2018**

### **On-Campus Student: Raenee Patterson**

From Norton, Kansas, Raenee Patterson is sophomore at Fort Hays State University. She is exceptionally involved on campus being part of Delta Zeta, Panhellenic Council, FHSU Orientation and Transition Leader, VIP ambassador, FHSU Honors Society, Live. Learn. Lead. Peer Academic Leader, and Encounter. Raenee is currently working toward

degrees in Organizational Leadership and Tourism Hospitality. During Raenee's free time, she enjoys watching Netflix, reading, traveling to see her family, baking, and running. Her passion for running has driven her to participate in a half marathon which she is currently preparing for. When coming to college, Raenee was uncertain about her major and was encouraged to consider the Department of Leadership Studies by her aunt and one of her mentors. Raenee felt that Leadership Studies was a good fit, and a great way to get a diverse degree that would allow her to be even more successful after college. Her favorite class that she has completed is LDRS 302, Introduction to Leadership Behaviors. She enjoyed the structure of the class and how it incorporated class discussions and activities. The class allowed her to apply elements of others people's leadership styles to her own by listening to how they think. She also really enjoyed taking the class with Dr. Arensdorf, Chair and Associate Professor of Leadership Studies, and her learning community, L3: Live Learn Lead.

### **Virtual Student: Jonathan Clayton**

Virtual Student, Jonathan Clayton is a second-semester graduate seeking a Master's degree in Professional Studies with a Concentration in Political Management. He is currently taking LDRS 670, Leadership and Personal Development, as an elective for his Master's program. Originally from Mullinville, Kansas, Jonathan is now living in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, he is working on a project to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Memorial Day as a federal holiday. He finds it an amazing honor to be a part of something this historic and celebratory of so many who gave so much. In Jonathan's limited free time, he enjoys listening to e-textbooks while commuting to Jim Thorpe, PA. Jonathan chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University because of the dedicated professors and the skills he would develop through the courses that would allow him to succeed in his career. His favorite class was LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership, with Dr. Justin Greenleaf. Justin and Jonathan attended the same high school and have been very good friends. Johnathan felt that Justin was able to teach him more about himself in an eight-week course than he knew about himself in the previous eight years.

### **International Student: Li Jingru (Mara)**

International student, Mara Li, is from Zhengzhou, Henan. She is majoring in finance and

minoring in global leadership from Fort Hays State University. Mara is involved in her college's English club and student union. Outside of her school schedule, she enjoys listening to music, playing badminton, cooking, and yoga. Leadership is very important to Mara. She believes that every position needs leadership. Mara finds that leadership is an area that makes herself better as well as how her skills influence people to lead others to do meaningful things. Her favorite class so far is Leadership and Personal Development taught by Dr. Brendon. Mara loves Dr. Brendon because he gives excellent feedback on her papers and makes her laugh during class. The interesting class teaches her a lot about leadership while having fun.

## **March 2018**

### **On-Campus Student: Diane Hernandez-Ramirez**

From, Kansas City, Kansas, Diane Hernandez-Ramirez is a senior at Fort Hays State University. She is currently majoring in Leadership and Sociology working towards a bachelor's degree in both. On campus, Diane's involvement includes Circle K International, Tigers in Service, and Philosophy Club. Dianne has numerous hobbies outside of school. She enjoys painting, reading, traveling, hearing music, participating in service, hanging out with friends, and eating desserts. Her influence to get involved with Leadership Studies dealt primarily with bettering her leadership skills and ultimately herself. She states, "Through the leadership department, I have not only improved as a leader, I am also a better person as a result." So far in her journey to gain a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership, her favorite class was LDRS 670 Leadership and Personal Development with Christy Brungardt. The class challenged her to reflect on how she thinks about herself, the type of person she wants to be, and her perspective on vulnerability.

### **Virtual Student: Eric Hollenbeck**

Virtual Student, Eric Hollenbeck received his Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from FHSU and is now working towards his Master's. He is from San Marcos, California and resides in Tampa, Florida. Eric is involved in several professional, community organizations which include Navy Mustang Association, Surface Warfare Officers Association, and the Navy League. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, martial

arts, video games, and exercising. Eric also loves to travel. His involvement with the Department of Leadership Studies stems from his current career. He felt as though it was a natural extension of what he had been doing in his career for more than half of his twenty years in it. Eric's favorite class is his current class, Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership with Dr. McRay. He believes the class reveals practical ways to use teachings in organizational development. Class discussions with the professor have helped Eric improve as a leader from the informative feedback and encouragement to challenge his assumptions.

### **International Student: Shuyu Jiu (Janet)**

Janet Jiu is an international student from Kaifeng, Henan majoring in Finance. She obtained the Leadership Studies Certificate to make her success of finding a translator job in Beijing much higher. As a student, Janet is primarily and extraordinarily involved in the speech club at SIAS. She took part in three speech competitions, hosted a talk show competition, and was vice president of the speaking and eloquence Association. Outside of school, her hobbies include exercising, traveling, playing badminton, and shopping. Her drive to be involved with the Department of Leadership Studies stems from her desire to improve the overall stigma of female leaders. Janet desires to be a female leader and set up an educational institution in the future. Her favorite class taken in the certificate program was LDRS 310, Field Work in Leadership Studies. She loved how the course combined in-class learning with off-campus, hands-on learning. Janet felt that she not only increased her leadership skills but also how to make her communication skills more effective.

## **April 2018**

### **On-Campus Student: Austin Jansonius**

Austin Jansonius is a senior at FHSU from Meade, Kansas. He is close to completing his B.B.A in Management and also plans to obtain a Banking Certificate. On campus, Austin is a member of Fort Hays Honor Society. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, fishing, watching Netflix, and spending time with family and friends. The reason Austin chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies was the way in which leadership plays a role in

business and society. He found it helpful to become more knowledgeable about the subject and give himself a chance to improve his leadership skills. Austin's favorite class so far has been Introduction to Leadership Behavior. He really enjoyed how the class focused on strategies and skills used to effectively participate in the leadership process. It was a very enjoyable learning experience for Austin.

### **Virtual Student: Tara Ritter**

From Wichita, Kansas, Tara Ritter is a senior at FHSU. She is a virtual student working towards a Bachelor of Arts and Humanities in Organizational Leadership. Tara is very active in her community and participates/volunteers for The Tallgrass Film Festival, St. Paul Breakfast for the Homeless, Struggling and Hungry, and the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Outside of school, she loves to read, be outdoors, study natural remedies and nutrition, hang out with her dogs, write short-stories, and cook. Tara chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she saw many connections between her life and leadership skills. She also desired to surround herself with like-minded people who desire to motivate and inspire others to make a change. Her favorite class is Leadership in Team Dynamics. She not only found the content exciting, she loved the immediate practical applications. However, what really stood out for her was the instructor, Dr. Jeni McCray. Tara was surprised with it being an online class how energetic and involved with each student Dr. McCray was. Despite being a virtual student, Tara made a strong connection through Dr. McCray's teaching methods and genuineness.

### **International Student: Du Junyao (Dolly)**

International SNU student, Junyao Du, is a sophomore majoring in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Marketing. Dolly is involved in ChangYou swimming association of Shenyang Normal University. She has been part of the organization since 2016 and is currently the leader of the association. Outside of school and swimming, Dolly enjoys visiting science and history museums. Dolly's motivation to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies is due to her desire to be a good leader. She already holds leadership roles and wants to continue improving her skills and abilities as a leader. As of right now, her favorite course within the department is LDRS 302, Leadership Behaviors. The class has taught her many practical skills on how to handle various difficult situations. With this knowledge, it has helped her efficiently manage

conflict within her swimming association.

### **International Student: Bingliang Liu (Roger)**

Bingliang Liu is a senior at SIAS and is from Zhengzhou, Henan, China. He is majoring in Organizational Leadership and plans to graduate in June. On campus, Roger is involved in a school leader assistants group and also helps open an on-campus 24/7 self-serving convenience store. His hobbies include reading and going to see movies. Roger chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies to improve himself as a leader. He finds that leadership is an important skill to have to succeed in society. From his time within the program, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies has been his favorite class. He enjoyed getting to work with social organizations.

## **September 2018**

### **On-Campus Student: Dane Murzyn**

Dane is a junior at Fort Hays State University majoring in Organizational Leadership. He is originally from Denver, Colorado. Dane's favorite class so far in his coursework has been LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behaviors. He has enjoyed this class the most because of Dr. Jill Arensdorf, and all of the great classmates he has had. He is also grateful for the experience because it helped him realize how to use his behaviors to become a better and more efficient leader. Dane got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because after changing his major three times, he realized that the activities and organizations he was involved in on campus aligned with being a leadership major. Furthermore, he wanted to learn how to be a better leader to influence and impact more people in a more positive way on campus and in the community. When not in class, Dane enjoys being a VIP Ambassador, Student Success Coach for Freshman Seminar, Orientation Leader, Barnhoppers dance instructor, and participating in the Tigers Undergraduate Fellows Program. He also works for the University Activities Board as the Vice President of Recruitment and Retention housed in the Memorial Union on campus.

### **Virtual Student: Yihong Guo (Jasmine)**

Jasmine is a senior at SIAS University in China. Jasmine is currently an Organizational Leadership. Jasmine chose to get involved with in the Department of Leadership Studies because "In the beginning, I just wanted to learn how to be a leader (the kind that is more power oriented). In the process of learning, I found that leadership is not only to teach some of the leadership characteristics and theories, more importantly, self-improvement and practical learning, the interaction of leadership and behavior. What I feel in leadership is the final and most important reason why I chose leadership." Her favorite class so far has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development because it made an impact on her and produced some personal changes for her. Jasmines hobbies include participating in Yoga club and Go club. Both of these activities help her to train her mind and stay relaxed during her daily life.

## **October 2018**

### **On-Campus Student: John Hubschman**

John is a junior Organizational Leadership major from Copperas Cove, Texas. He is looking forward to completing his Global Leadership Certificate. Outside of school, John enjoys spending time with his children (Peyton-5, Paisley-3, and Presley-1). He chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because he enjoyed taking Introduction to Leadership Concepts while at North Central Kansas Technical College. John said the class challenged his thinking on what leadership is and how to perform leadership. John looks forward to learning more about leadership and hopes to apply the different concepts personally and professionally. John's favorite class is Leadership and Team Dynamics because he is learning how to improve and work as a team. Also, he believes this class will be beneficial to help maximize the success of future teamwork.

### **Virtual Student: Chad Smith**

Congratulations, Chad!

### **International Student: Sihao Chen (Lance)**

Lance is a senior Organizational Leadership and Finance major from Zhengzhou, Henan, China. Lance is currently working to become a business professional in the finance field. He is involved in the Entrepreneurship Center for Students. In 2016, China started the Electric Power Reform and Lance feels empowered to join this industry. Outside of school, Lance plays basketball, guitar, and e-sports. Also, he has his own business selling electricity. Lance got involved with the leadership department because "I think leadership is a widely applied and practical subject. A lot of leadership knowledge can make me more efficient and enhance my communication and self-reflection ability." Lance enjoys LDRS 640: Principles of Civic Leadership, taught by Jeffery Bourgeois, and LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies, taught by William Allen. These two classes not only taught Lance valuable knowledge, but also taught him many moralities as a citizen and a leader.

## November 2018

### On-Campus Student: Brenna Erdman

Brenna is a sophomore at Fort Hays State University and is originally from McCook, Nebraska. Currently, she is a psychology major and is working on a Leadership Studies Certificate and a Building a Career in a Nonprofit Corporation Certificate. After college, she hopes to either go into nonprofit work or attend graduate school to get a degree in counseling. Her greatest involvement is in Fort Hays Honor Society where she currently serve on the executive leadership team as the community service committee coordinator. Brenna is involved in Astronomy Club, University Activities Board, VIP Ambassadors, Honors College, and the Delta Zeta sorority. Also, she works on campus in the Graduate School as the Degree Analyst Student Secretary. When she is not at school, she loves napping or watching TV/movies and creating water color paintings. She chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she knew whatever career path she chose, leadership would give her an advantage. Brenna enjoys the classwork because it is interesting an applicable. Her favorite class has been LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behavior with Dr. Jill Arensdorf. She says, "Jill has a contagious passion for learning, and she makes every class enjoyable every day. Leadership behavior has motivated me to incorporate leadership ideas into my everyday life."

### Virtual Student: Madison Shetlar

Madison is a first year Graduate School student at Fort Hays State University and is originally from Salina, Kansas. Currently, she is working toward a Masters in Professional Studies with an Organizational Leadership concentration. Her greatest involvement is attending FHSU football and basketball games. In her community, she is a middle/high school art teacher, basketball coach, and sponsors an art club. Also, she spends a lot of time with her family and run and workout. She also enjoys drawing and painting. She chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she has been interested in leadership ever since high school when she took a leadership class at Salina Central under long time teacher and coach Dough Finch. After doing some research online she found the Organizational Leadership Program and was impressed with the professors, online courses, and the affordability of FHSU. Madison plans to use her education to better herself as a leader both in and out of teaching. Madison says, "she enjoys LDRS 810: Qualitative Research Methods, and learning about the qualitative research process with Dr. Brent Goertzen. Also, she enjoys the amount of communication she receives with her peers in her Theories of Leadership class with Dr. McRay. In addition, she has learned more about the leadership theories in these first 12 weeks of the semester than I ever knew possible, and I enjoy being able to apply what I learned to my job."

### International Student: Jessie Zhao

Jessie is a senior from Shenyang, China who is currently majoring in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in International Trade. She takes part in "Creating Youth" University Students Entrepreneurship Competition in 2018 and was honored as the Sear volunteer in the local community for helping outside of the school. Outside of school, Jessie enjoys books, movies, and music. American TV series became an inseparable part of her life and she began to learn English songs. She chose the leadership department because a qualified leader not only means excellent professional skills, but also knowledge to communicate with others. She would like to be a more effective leader to better manage her time and drive more initiative. LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies Internship is Jessie's favorite class. She enjoys it because "it involves the professional skills and teaching us how to solve issues within companies. Experiencing it

is more effective and useful than knowledge in books."

## February 2019

### On-Campus Student: Aubrey Naden

From Gardner, Kansas, Aubrey Naden is a senior at Fort Hays State University. She was involved on campus being part of Fort Hays State University Tiger Marching Band for the first four years of attendance, as well as a part of Residential Life while still living on campus. Aubrey is currently working toward degrees in General Science with a minor and certificate in Leadership. During Aubrey's free time, she enjoys reading, knitting, crafting, and hanging out with friends! Aubrey chose the Leadership Studies department because she has upper-division courses she needed to complete for her degree. In addition, her roommate graduated with a degree in Leadership Studies and convinced her that the classes were fun to take and valuable to any career path. Her favorite leadership classes to take were Women in Leadership or Advanced Leadership Behaviors because both are taught by wonderful professors and she has already learned so much about herself, as well as, leadership concepts in both courses. Congratulations Aubrey!

### Virtual Student: Cody Erwin

Congratulations, Cody!

## March 2019

### On-Campus Student: Alex Kultgen

Alex is a Junior Organizational Leadership major from Waco, Texas. On campus, she is a member of the Black Student Union and works as the Student Coordinator of the Global Leadership Project. Outside of school, Alex enjoys reading, traveling, and watching Duke during March Madness. She chose to get involved with the department because Dr.

Whitaker convinced her to receive her Leadership Certificate. Also, Alex took 300 with Dr. Seth Kastle and after he showed her a documentary about Jane Elliot's Blue Eyes Brown Eyes Experiment, she knew that leadership was her passion and she needed to switch her major. Her favorite class is LDRS 640 with Dr. Curt Brungardt. Alex said "I love the social justice aspect of the class and getting to learn all about leadership and civic engagement. The class has been one of the most influential and important classes that I have taken to date." Congratulations, Alex!

### **Virtual Student: Niki Griffith**

Niki is a MPS Graduate student from Luka, KS. She completed her nursing degree through FHSU during the years of 2003 and 2007 and started to pursue her Masters in Professional Studies in 2018. Niki is currently the District 6a Chair for KONL (Kansas Organization for Nurse Leaders) and serves as a member of KARQM (Kansas Association of Risk and Quality Management). Outside of school, Niki likes to read books, listen to music, attend concerts, and be outside. She got involved with Leadership because she wanted to further her education but in an area that is separate from nursing. Niki had several informal leadership roles and had the desire to grow, both personally and professionally. Niki does not have a favorite leadership class. However, she said that "The discussions with my leadership peers have been the greatest aspect of the classes thus far. I have enjoyed learning the material through each of their unique perspectives. The fact that not everyone originates from the same location, culture, or industry is fantastic. Additionally, I cannot thank Dr. Goertzen and Dr. McRay enough for their guidance, motivation, and support throughout this journey." Congratulations, Niki!

### **Virtual Student: Tricia Kelley**

Tricia is a senior from Augusta, GA. She is a General Studies Major with a concentration in health promotion or education. Outside of school, Tricia is a stay at home mom to three children (ages 5, 3, and 15 months) and has been a stay at home wife for 9 years this July. In addition, she has two cats, Trebek and Trudeau, who make a great addition to her family. In her free time, she likes to read, go to the gym, and drink coffee. She chose to get involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she wanted to round out her education. Her favorite class is LDRS 302 because the information is relevant to both the workplace and everyday life. Congratulations, Tricia!

## International Student: Yiming Zhu

Congratulations, Ace!

## April 2019

### On-Campus Student: Kayla Reid

Kayla is a senior, Organizational Leadership and Communication Sciences and Disorders major from Lyons, Kansas. On-campus, Kayla serves as a Herndon Clinic Undergraduate Student Clinician, Kelly Center Volunteer Peer Assistant, University Activities Board member, National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association member, National Society of Leadership and Success member, Peer Academic Leader for "Let's Talk" Learning Community, Leadership Studies Shadow Day mentor, Live. Learn. Lead. Learning Community Member, Learning Community Ambassador for First Year Experience and a Residence Hall Association member. Kayla also enjoys crafting, painting, baking, spending time with friends and family, and shopping. Kayla chose to get involved with the department because she was involved in the L3 learning community her freshman year. Her favorite class has been LDRS 670, Leadership and Personal Development, because she learned a lot about herself and how to strive to become better in any setting, professional and personal. Also, she has gained confidence in her public speaking abilities Kayla mentions "I think each new chapter of my life will benefit from any of my leadership courses and look forward to applying my knowledge in the future," Congratulations, Kayla!

### Virtual Student: Kim Rhoades

Kim is a MPS Graduate student from Topeka, KS. Kim is currently volunteers for Silverbackks which feed the poor within the community. Outside of school, Kim likes to spend time with her family and play volleyball. She got involved with Leadership because she wanted to learn more in the field of leadership to grow within her current organization. The classes she has taken thus far, have taught her so much in regards to leadership, which she would not have been exposed to without furthering my career journey through

FHSU Leadership Studies. She feels that once she has graduated with her degree, she can use the education to implement with the department she currently resides in and help other leaders. Kim's favorite leadership class in LDRS 677: Leadership and Personal Development. Kim mentioned that "As a leader, you must know your strengths and weaknesses in order to grow. It teaches you to go outside your comfort zone and dig deeper into what you need to work on personally. Our professor always encouraged us to talk about topics that led to deep conversations. Everyone was so nice and responsive to the topics which made you feel complete." Congratulations, Kim!

### **International Student: Wei Wang (Jack)**

Jack is a junior from Xinyang, Henan majoring in Finance. Jack is working to improve himself and learn as much as possible from all of his coursework. He is involved in the Youth Volunteer Association and serves as a dormitory director. Outside of school, he likes to travel and participate in charity activities. He enjoys helping young children that lack education because they deserve an equal chance to be happy and successful. Jack became involved with the department because he wanted the chance to learn more and enhance his experiences. His favorite leadership class has been LDRS 310, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. He mentioned that "it provides an opportunity to act in society, to experience society, and to implement projects he wants to do. Practice might be the best way to learn." Congratulations, Jack!

### **International Student: Xu Liu (Cinders)**

Cinders is a junior from Shenyang, Liaoning majoring in Organizational Leadership. He is involved in the writing center in the Center for International Business and service learning projects. In fact, his team focused on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 called Environmental Sustainability. He enjoys singing songs, running, swimming, reading novels, Chinese chess, Gobang, and playing badminton. Cinders became involved with the department because "it's a good opportunity, which can fulfill and further my leadership skills by the programs and academic courses. It can shape me to be a mature and potential leader after graduation when I am facing different industries." His favorite leadership class has been LDRS 450, Advanced Leadership Behaviors. He mentioned that "this course gives a systematic summary of all the leadership skills and behaviors that I have learned before. The leadership behavior can deeply help me understand and apply

them in my future career. However, my ambition is to be a good civic leader who can do something for changing the social issues, serving the community, and making some difference around the world. So, leadership skills are piled up like bricks, and eventually I can achieve high performance as spectacular as high-rise buildings." Congratulations, Cinders!

## **May 2019**

### **On-Campus Student: Misael Trejo**

Misael is a senior Organizational Leadership major from Sublette, Kansas. On campus, he is involved in Circle K International, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and interns for the office of Transition, Inclusion & Diversity Excellence (TIDE) at Fort Hays State University. His hobbies include traveling, playing and watching basketball, trying new foods, and watching memes. Misael chose to get involved with the department because he heard from his friends enjoyed the department. His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 640, Principles of Civic Leadership. He enjoyed the course because it taught him to take a step back and evaluate myself on what I was doing to create positive changes in society. "It was a class that I was always excited to attend because each week was powerful. It motivated me to advocate for groups that are underrepresented and always look to be on the right side of human history." Congratulations, Misael!

### **On-Campus Student: Bingbing Tao**

Bingbing is a graduate student working on her masters in Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA). On campus, she enjoys being involved in Student Affairs Graduate Association and works on research consistently. Outside of school, she loves to spend time with friends and having in-depth conversations to reflect on various issues. Bingbing got involved with Leadership Studies because she was required to take Organizational Systems, Change, & Leadership. This was her first leadership class that she completed. However, she mentions "Before this class, I met several people in higher leadership, especially in my previous working experience. Through this class, I have recognized the qualities of a good leader from the perspective of theoretical knowledge. Through this

class, I began to reflect, summarize, and explore my leadership characteristics, and began to think about various issues, such as whether am I suitable to be a leader or a follower, how do I become a good leader, what are my strengths and advantages, what can I do well, and so on. This class has inspired me to analyze issues in a multi-dimensional way, and at the same time, to reflect on myself in depth. From this lesson, I got more than I expected. It is really a wonderful exploring trip." Congratulations, Bingbing!

### **Virtual Student: Chris Krueger**

Congratulations, Chris!

### **International Student: Charlotte Sun**

Charlotte is a junior from Henan Zhengzhou working toward a degree in Business Administration. She is working toward a Global Leadership Certificate. She is involved as the vice president of the student union and previously served as the leader of the Chinese debate team. Outside of school, Charlotte likes to read about logical reasoning and philosophy, climb mountains, travel with friends and look for delicious food. Charlotte enjoys the field of Leadership because "leadership will teach me some very practical skills, such as communication, social interaction, problem solving, cultivating high emotional intelligence, and how to set clear goals. So far, Charlotte has enjoyed working with an organization that disseminates traditional Chinese national art. She is appreciative of these teams because it gives her the ability to work with in an ideal team setting. Congratulations, Charlotte!

## **July 2019**

### **Virtual Student: Faron Nelson**

Faron is a senior from Glen Elder, Kansas taking Leadership classes and working towards a degree in Marketing. His current job at Pestinger Distributing Company involves making event advertisements in the sign shop, which gives him the opportunity to work closely in different community events across North Central and North Western

Kansas. Faron has always admired those in leadership positions, but as he has gotten older, he has realized the “importance of the people who are dedicated to making positive change and the power that can be harnessed by bringing people together.” He hopes to continue to grow as a leader and share his passion for the things he cares about, inspiring others along the way. Faron’s favorite class has been Introduction to Leadership Concepts because it gave him a new perspective on the progression of leadership in society and how everybody can contribute to leadership, even if they are not in the leadership position themselves. His biggest takeaway is that you should not underestimate the power you have to motivate others; you should always push them towards greatness. Outside of school, Faron enjoys visiting Waconda Lake, traveling (he’s visited 41 states), trying new things, and spending time with his wife and Welsh Terrier dog, Buddy. Congratulations, Faron!

## August 2019

### Virtual Student: Wendy Cook

From Roswell, New Mexico, Wendy is a third year student working towards an MPS degree with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Her favorite leadership class has been Women in Leadership in Cinema. She says, “Not only did we get to watch some fierce portrayal of women on screen, I had some of the very best conversations about female leadership and motherhood to a daughter with Christine. I hope to meet her in person one day.” The professors are a big reason why Wendy chose to be involved in the department, they make it feel like home. Wendy currently works at a local art museum where she was given the opportunity to create her own show that is on display until the end of the year. She is also a member of the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Gold Award committee and spends a good amount of her time at the baseball fields, where her husband is a college baseball coach and daughter plays softball. She also enjoys hiking and yoga when she has the chance. Congratulations, Wendy!

## September 2019

### **On-Campus Student: Denice Lastra-Blanco**

Currently working towards a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, Denice is a junior originally from Fort Collins, Colorado. Denice is involved heavily on campus in various organizations. She is a senator for Student Government Association, a chair for Student Relations and Involvement, a mentor for Tiger Team and Project Light House, a member of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization, and much more. Outside of school, Denice enjoys drawing, painting, getting coffee at Breathe Coffee House, and going to community events, like Tiger Athletics, with friends. Denice chose to become involved in the department after meeting with the staff because she “wanted to have the opportunity to excel within my own leadership skills and learn about its development over the years.” Once she was accepted into the Live, Learn, Lead Learning Community, Denice declared Leadership as her major. Denice’s favorite class has been Field Work in Leadership Studies because it allowed her to work hands on and fully understand the concepts she learned in that and previous leadership courses. She enjoyed developing friendships with her team, being pushed out of her comfort zone, and using acts of kindness to leave an impact on the Hays community. Congratulations, Denice!

### **International Student: Doris Tan**

Originally from Henan Xinyang, Doris Tan is a senior working towards a double major in international economy and trade and organizational leadership. Doris chose to get involved in leadership because it helps her improve her overall awareness and critical thinking ability and see personal areas in need of improvement. It also carries many traits that will be helpful to her after graduation. Her favorite course has been fieldwork in leadership studies because it allowed her gain a deeper understanding of leadership through the combination of learning and practice. “We should not only learn the knowledge of leadership, but more importantly, we should have personal experience.” Outside of class, Doris has worked at her school dormitory. She enjoys part time work, not only because she can earn money, but because she can develop rich life experiences. Doris also spends her time traveling with friends and learning about the customs of different cities, or watching movies like Forrest Gump or the Avengers. Congratulations, Doris!

## September 2019

### On-Campus Student: Quinn Munk

Originally from Salina, Kansas, Quinn Munk is a junior at FHSU majoring in Organizational Leadership with a certificate in Women and Gender Studies. On campus, she is involved in the sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma, the National Society of Leadership and Success, Christian Challenge, and is an Ambassador for Fraternity and Sorority life. Outside of school, Quinn enjoys hanging out with her friends and binge watching the TV show *Friends*. Originally, Quinn chose Organizational Leadership as her major just for the sake of declaring a major. She decided to stay because she “fell in love with the classes and content.” Quinn realized Leadership was a major she could use in everyday life to help her grow and become even more passionate about the organizations she is working with. “I absolutely love every time I walk into my classes, being greeted by the awesome professors, talking to the most welcoming faculty, and being surrounded by the most supportive community.” Thus far, Quinn’s favorite leadership class has been Leadership and Personal Development with Dr. Christie Brungardt. She enjoyed it because she was able to look inside herself and how she thinks and feels towards others. Quinn also learned how others think as well which gave her opportunities to improve relationships with her friends and peers. Congratulations, Quinn!

### Virtual Student: Craig Dilbeck

Craig Dilbeck, from Hutchinson, Kansas, is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership. He is also working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership through the accelerated program. As a non-traditional, virtual student, Craig said he chose to become involved in Leadership Studies “to grow personally and professionally, to improve the organizations I influence, and achieve a goal over 20 years in the making.” He has had his fair share of toxic leadership and he saw how leadership can hold everything together or drive it apart. The program challenges him academically and individually to become more experienced and qualified as a leader. Craig could not pick just one leadership class as his favorite. He enjoyed Leadership and Team Dynamics because leadership happens in collaborative environments that mutually benefit the leaders and followers, Principles of Organizational

Leadership because it reinforced what he previously learned and introduced new, practical components, and finally, Leadership and Personal Development because leadership is about internal change too, not just external change. Craig works at National Credit Adjusters, LLC as an inventory strategy analyst and is the Senior Pastor at Victorious Life Church. He is a former foster parent and became an adoptive parent. Craig's hobbies include playing guitar, maintaining his family's above ground pool, and attending the activities of his three children, such as marching band competitions, volleyball, basketball, softball, and soccer. Congratulations, Craig!

### **International Student: Belinda Shi**

Belinda Shi grew up in Shenyang and is currently a sophomore attending SNU. She is majoring in International Finance and is also working towards an Organizational Leadership degree. As a student, Belinda is involved in her school's debate club. After classes, she spends time tutoring other students in various classes. Outside of school, Belinda enjoys spending her time reading books, watching musicals, and occasionally drawing pictures. She chose to become involved in the Department of Leadership Studies because it is a subject that can be used in so many different areas which made her want to learn more about it. Belinda's current class, Introduction to Leadership Concepts, has become her favorite course and has made her very interested in leadership. Her professor, Ms. Pandora Rupert, teaches the new content and concepts so that it is easily understandable to students. Belinda also says Ms. Pandora Rupert is able to keep the student's attention, so it makes class more enjoyable. Congratulations, Belinda!

## **November 2019**

### **On-Campus Student: Micayla Gutierrez**

Originally from Wichita, Micayla Gutierrez is a sophomore at Fort Hays State University. While majoring in biology, Micayla is working towards a certificate in leadership studies. On campus, she is the secretary of the organization NSCS and Pre-med club, is a member of Tiger Pals, Astronomy Club, Christian Challenge, assists with research on cancer cells, and is the vice president of a residential hall council. She enjoys photography, coaching, and

figure skating for fun. Micayla also enjoys getting involved in the community; when she is in Wichita, she often volunteers at Wesley Hospital, and hopes to job shadow there one day. Micayla enjoyed student government in high school, which is why she became involved in leadership studies. Organizational Leadership gives her the opportunity to one day make a difference in her community. When asked what her favorite leadership class has been, she could not pick between Introduction to Leadership Concepts and Introduction to Leadership Behavior. She took them with Justin Greenleaf and Kaley Klaus who “both are amazing professors and make each class enjoyable and fun to learn. They both have attitudes that never fail to put a smile on my face. I cannot choose between the two classes because of this.” Congratulations, Micayla!

### Virtual Student: Matthew Beigel

Matthew Beigel is a senior majoring in Organizational Leadership. Originally from Suitland, Maryland, Matthew currently lives in Derby. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his kids, being outdoors, biking – he hopes to do Bike Across Kansas in a few years – and watching TV, especially the show Game of Thrones. Matthew is a member of the Society for Collegiate Leadership and Achievement. Once he becomes familiar with this role, he hopes to seek out new leadership responsibilities and become part of another virtual club that allows him to expand his network, both scholarly and professionally. Matthew said he chose to become involved in Leadership Studies because he wants to “continue climbing that proverbial “corporate ladder”. I wanted to obtain my degree and continue climbing the ranks. I found however that there is so much more to this field of study beyond having a degree that will help me professionally.” Matthew enjoyed the classes; Introduction to Leadership Concepts because it set the basis of leadership, Team Dynamics because he learned the importance of having a strong vision and what a real team is, and finally Fieldwork in Leadership Studies because “it forced me to be uncomfortable, while delivering the opportunity to learn more about myself and the community I live in.” Congratulations, Matthew!

### International Student: Cheryl Shen

In her second year of school at Fort Hays State University, Cheryl Shen is working towards a degree in business administration and organizational leadership. From the city of Zhengzhou, her favorite leadership class thus far has been Leadership and Personal

Development with Benjamin Houchen. Through this class, Cheryl has gained a deeper understanding of her own character and has learned how to deal with her shortcomings. At the same time, she has learned a lot of the people around her and how to get along with them better. Cheryl is excited to apply what she learned to real life and to her future. Cheryl chose to be involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because of various reasons. It allows her to understand herself and others better, improves her interpersonal skills and language expression ability, and allows her to fully understand what leadership is and how to use those skills to be a leader. Cheryl is involved in many organizations on campus; she is a member of the Zhengzhou stray animal volunteer group, works on undergraduate innovation and entrepreneurship projects, and works in the student union in the Public Relations and Etiquette Department. In her free time, Cheryl enjoys playing the Gu Zheng, swimming, yoga, and talking with others, especially foreign teachers. Congratulations, Cheryl!

### **Graduate Student: Martina Oleksiak**

Martina Oleksiak is working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. Originally from Rehburg, Germany, Martina lives in Cleveland, Ohio taking virtual classes while also being involved in a local non-profit wildlife organization. After Martina graduated from Baldwin-Wallace University with a degree in Business Management, she was looking for a different kind of master's degree, which is why Fort Hays' MPS program stuck out to her. She says, "I had a professional goal to be able to combine business acumen with the study of psychology and sociology to attain a degree that is people focused." The class Theoretical Foundations of Leadership has been the most impactful course Martina has taken thus far, although she has enjoyed them all. Not only did it give her a basis of leadership knowledge but it also conveyed the importance of leadership from various perspectives. Martina was able to take what she learned from that course and apply it to her life the very next day. It also solidified her thoughts about being an "authentic and servant leader with a global leadership perspective." She has many hobbies outside of school. Martina enjoys working with animals and takes care of her own very spirited parrots while also having a healthy lifestyle that allows her to exercise often through various activities. Congratulations, Martina!

### **On-Campus Student: Riley Blagg**

Riley Blagg, originally from Strasburg, Colorado, is a junior in the nursing program and is working towards a minor in leadership studies. Because he finished his certificate in leadership studies during a prior semester, his current goal is to finish his BSN and work as a nurse. Riley decided to become involved in leadership studies when Dr. Seth Kastle spoke as a guest speaker to his personal wellness class about what the department had to offer. He enrolled in the courses Introduction to Leadership Concepts and Introduction to Leadership Behaviors right away and he finished his certificate in two semesters. Riley enjoyed the courses so much that he decided to continue on to complete a minor. His favorite leadership class has been Fieldwork in Leadership Studies because it gave him the opportunity to take concepts learned in previous classes and apply them to the real world. Not only did it allow for deeper interactions with his classmates and professors, it allowed him to enact memorable and actual change within the Hays community. When he has time, Riley still enjoys attending meetings for the Gamer's Guild Cross Generational Connection, which was part his Leadership 310 project. Outside of school, Riley enjoys reading and writing, going on walks, fishing, playing board games, and spending time with friends and family. Congratulations, Riley!

### **Virtual Student: Mariam Sears**

A senior from Calhan, Colorado, Mariam Sears is majoring in Organizational Leadership and Medical Diagnostic Imaging. Through Fort Hays, she is involved in many organizations; Fort Hays Honor Society Mortar Board, Honors College, Study Abroad, and is an advisor for Alpha Gamma Delta. When asked why she became involved in the department she said, "I saw a great opportunity for growth in the Organizational Leadership program because of the people-centered perspective on the topics covered. Regardless of where I end up after University, it will be easy to apply the skills I've gained from this program. The people involved with the Department of Leadership Studies, from teachers to community partners and guest speakers, each have a unique perspective and an eagerness to build up their students." Mariam could not pick just one favorite leadership course. She enjoyed Principles of Personal Development because the conversations through the semester were encouraging, personally revealing, and made her feel like a leadership student for the first time. She also enjoyed Leadership and

Team Dynamics because she was able to immediately apply the skills she learned. Finally, Fieldwork in Leadership Studies is another favorite because working hands on with a community member in a meaningful way taught her more than listening in a classroom or reading ever could. Mariam's hobbies include traveling, painting, photography, creative writing, and collecting and caring for "way too many" plants. Congratulations, Mariam!

### **International Student: Minhao Dong (Sheldon)**

Originally from Anyang Henan, China, Sheldon is in his junior year attending SIAS University. While taking Organizational Leadership courses, he is majoring in Business Administration. After he graduates, Sheldon is planning on taking classes related to architecture and hopes to work with a construction company or the Infrastructure Bureau of Building Authority in China. Sheldon is involved in two clubs; the Philosophy Club and Culture Team Ambassadors. He has also interned with the Makerspace Company of Incubation of SIAS University, where he worked on administrative issues within various businesses on campus. Sheldon chose to become involved in leadership because it teaches him one of a kind techniques of administration. Not only does leadership analyze an individual's personality, thoughts, and behaviors, but it also looks at a broader scale of an organization's characteristics, potential, and actions. Leadership is relatable to many academic and cultural areas. Thus far, Sheldon's favorite leadership course has been Organizational Leadership because he enjoys breaking down organizational issues using the reframing mental model which includes four frames; structural, human resources, political, and symbolic. He said, "This class shows me how the problem about organizations could be figured out by the combined channel concerning these four frames or the solution being built to one of these four no matter what." Sheldon enjoys drawing pictures and blueprints to design clothing and buildings, watching and critiquing films, and learning new things from different perspectives. Congratulations, Sheldon!



## **February 2020**

### **On-Campus Student: Amari Mcglory**

Amari McGlory is a psychology freshman majoring and working towards her Leadership Studies Certificate. Originally from Topeka, Amari is involved in various organizations and

associations on campus. She is a part of the Student Government Association, Black Student Union, and Residence Hall Association and is on the Tiger Team and Hall Council. Amari spends her time watching Netflix, eating, and hanging out with her friends outside of school. At first, Amari considered Organizational Leadership as her major but decided to stick with the certificate. Introduction to Leadership Concepts has been her favorite and only leadership course she has taken so far. "It has taught me a lot about myself and how I can strengthen my leadership skills." Congratulations, Amari!

### **FHSU Online Student: Courtney Hendrickson**

Originally from Laurel, Montana, Courtney Hendrickson is in her first semester of achieving her Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership.

Courtney is also working towards a certificate in accounting. She became involved in leadership studies when medically discharged from the military. While serving, Courtney took part in many leadership development training, which she loved. She said, "Due to my back injury, I have had to reevaluate my direction in life, and I knew leadership studies would be a part of it. It seemed that FHSU's Department of Leadership Studies fit my goals perfectly." Courtney has enjoyed the course Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership because the theories fascinate her, and the system is similar to a class she took in her undergrad. Outside of school, her hobbies include spending time with her family, cooking, baking, and learning more about wine, beer, animals, and new sociological theories. Congratulations, Courtney!

### **FHSU Online Student: Madison Shetlar**

In her last semester of graduate school, Madison Shetlar is finishing her Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. After taking a few leadership courses throughout high school and her undergrad, she became interested in leadership and "eagerly registered" when she found the MPS program through FHSU. Madison said, "I have loved the organizational leadership program and my professors. I have been challenged and learned a lot about myself and my organization." Her favorite course has been Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership because she took it when it was very relevant to her life, and it assisted her through the process of changes in administration. Madison works as a 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade art teacher and is very involved in her school. This school year, she works as the art club and middle school cheer sponsor and is the coach for middle school girls' basketball and high

school track. In her free time, she enjoys traveling around Kansas to find new restaurants and bars to eat at, working in her art studio, running, and relaxing at home. Congratulations, Madison!



## March 2020

### On Campus Student: Jackilyn Dougherty

Originally from Wichita, Kansas, Jacki Dougherty is a senior majoring in Organizational Leadership while working towards a Global Leadership Certificate. On campus, Jacki is involved in various organizations; Student Government Association, VIP Ambassadors, the VALUE Program, and is a Peer Academic Leader Advisor. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, playing guitar, winning board games, napping, and spending a lot of time with her friends. Jackie chose to become involved in leadership studies after taking the introductory course for her learning community. She says, “I fell in love with the material. I felt it resonated with my values and I was always interested in class, so I took a leap and made it my major and am proud of that decision.” Jackie’s favorite leadership course that she has taken has been Women and Leadership because it has an emphasis on a population that is rarely instructed over. “The course was empowering and extremely informative.” Congratulations, Jacki!

### On Campus Student: Jaidyn Mchenry

Jaidyn McHenry is a senior working towards a major in Radiologic Technology and a minor in Leadership Studies. From Minneapolis, Kansas, Jaidyn first became involved in the department after her advisor suggested her getting a minor in this field of study. At first, she was a little hesitant because had not heard much about the program or considered herself to be much of a leader. After asking around and learning more about the program, Jaidyn stepped out of her comfort zone and registered in a couple entry level courses. “These courses have been some of the most beneficial and applicable courses I have taken thus far in my college career. It has been so intriguing watching myself evolve and really start to understand not only myself on a deeper level, but also how leadership fits into my life and how I will be able to apply this knowledge in my everyday life and future career.” When asked what her favorite course has been, Jaidyn said, “Yeah, there’s no way I could choose just one.” Each has been challenging and beneficial in their own way and she has enjoyed getting to know her classmates and professors through various experiences.

Congratulations, Jaidyn!

### **FHSU Online Student: Jaylynn Anders**

Majoring in Organizational Leadership and working towards a certificate in Management, Jaylynn Anders is a sophomore from Salina, Kansas. Jaylynn became involved in leadership after she realized it would help her promote multiple opportunities in her future. “I chose the Department of Leadership Studies as I was confident it would aid me while building a solid foundation in business knowledge, emotional intelligence, and effective communication. I felt this program would overall give me the skills necessary for a wide range of organizational and supervisory positions.” One of Jaylynn’s favorite leadership courses has been Leadership and Personal Development because it allowed her to reflect on her own life experiences and look towards the direction she wanted to go in. She has also enjoyed Advanced Leadership Behaviors because it taught her more about the importance of followership and the transition into leadership position. Outside of school, Jaylynn is involved in local organizations; the Noon Optimist Club and the Kansas Cancer Partnership Tobacco Coalition. Jaylynn’s hobbies include crafting, spending time with her friends and family (especially at a lake), traveling, sleeping in, and enjoying steak dinners. Congratulations, Jaylynn!



**April 2020**

### **On-Campus Student: Faith Little**

Originally from Holton, Kansas, Faith Little is a freshman majoring in Communication Studies while working towards a Leadership Studies Certificate. On campus, Faith is involved in various organizations; FHSU Cross Country and Track & Field, Christian Challenge, Center for Civic Leadership, and the Honors College. In her free time, she enjoys learning new songs on her ukulele, creating art, reading, and being civically engaged through community service! Faith chose to become involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she was drawn to the excellence of the academic program, the intelligent and kind community within the department, and also the learning opportunity to better access the needs of the community as she pursue her dream of starting a nonprofit. Faith’s favorite leadership course that she has taken has

been Introduction to Leadership Concepts taught by Professor Greenleaf. Every concept in class has been insightful and impactful. She is excited to apply the knowledge she has gained in this class throughout her life in college and as she pursues her career ambitions. Congratulations, Faith!

### **On-Campus Student: Tatum Ditto**

Congratulations, Tatum!

### **Virtual Student: Marisol Antunez (MPS Student)**

Marisol is an MPS Graduate student from New York. Outside of school, she likes to spend time hiking, blogging, biking, and cooking. She got involved with Leadership because she has always been fascinated with leadership. Specifically, she enjoys learning about the dynamics of people, relationships, and communications with one another that I always wondered what makes individuals follow other individuals. Marisol's favorite leadership class has been LDRS 818: Ethical Leadership. Marisol mentioned that " This class has really blown my mind. Not only was the literature so educational but the questions and assignments the professor would give us really made you think outside the box- really opened your mind about what is ethics, what is morals, how does that apply in leadership. It has opened my eyes to the true depth of ethics and ethical behavior. Each week I would talk to my friends and family about what I am learning and what their thoughts on the subject- it has led to some of the most interesting conversations. When choosing an elective, my advisor Professor McRay highly recommended this course to me and I am grateful she did." Congratulations, Marisol!

### **International Student: Yubing (Serena) Ding (SNU)**

Serena is a junior from Shenyang working toward a degree in International Trade. She is taking leadership classes to help achieve mutual benefit in the maximum trade between China and other countries. She is involved in AIESEC, which is committed to providing talent assistance to other developing and underdeveloped countries and attracting students from these countries to take challenging internships in developed

countries. Now, because of the global outbreak of COVID- 19, she and her classmates have formed an environmental group to contribute to the environmental issues their communities. Outside of school, Serena likes to learn and teach others Japanese. Serena enjoys taking leadership courses because "As a Chinese student, I am deeply aware that Chinese students are lacking in the formation and development of leadership. Thus, in order to promote leadership to more students in the future, we must learn to use leadership, and convert the knowledge in the textbook into our own habits." So far, Serena's favorite leadership course is LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies because she prefers to develop leadership through practice rather than learning from books. Congratulations, Serena!

### **International Student: Qiao (Violet) Yixuan (SIAS)**

Violet is a junior from Xinzheng City, Henan Province, China working toward a degree in International Economy and Trade. She is taking leadership classes because she wants to expand her horizons and the ability to practice leadership. She has actively served her community by joining the Xinzheng volunteer association and went to pick up garbage in Huangdi's hometown in Xinzheng and handing out flyers to teach people how to protect the environment. Furthermore, her team put on fundraisers to buy food and clothing for a family in need. Outside of school, Violet likes to play the piano and badminton, travel to different places, and go to the gym. Serena enjoyed LDRS 640: Principles of Civic Leadership with Jeff Bourgeois because " This is the first time I have served as a class leader in leadership courses through the encouragement of teacher Jeff, and I learned a lot of theoretical knowledge of leadership. This is the most memorable reason for me. And there is often a difference between theory and practice. I can learn a lot from practice about leadership. Then, this course gives us a lot of practice and can help non-profit organizations. I think it is good to inspire our conscience and we can flexibly use what we have learned to help the NPO. True knowledge comes from practice." Congratulations, Violet!



**May 2020**

**On-Campus Student: Leon Dammert**

Leon is a freshman Marketing/Management major from Heidelberg, Germany. On-campus, he is the secretary of the International Student Union. Uniquely, he is part of the Track and Field team at Fort Hays State University. His hobbies include running hurdles, participating in the 200m and long jump events, and meeting friends. Leon chose to get involved with the department because "Everybody is a leader at one point in his or her life and I think it is important to have a basic knowledge of leadership studies. I have already seen lots of really bad leaders and I told myself I want to be better than them." His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. He enjoyed the course because he did not just learn from taking a lot of tests. rather, he learned a lot about himself and his daily life. Congratulations, Leon!

### **On-Campus Student: David Oakley**

David is a senior Political Science graduate from Lyndon, Kansas. On-campus, he is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Former President, and current member of FHSU's Economics Club and Treasurer of FHSU's Young Democrats. His hobbies include woodworking and building a home desk to utilize during his new job. David chose to get involved with the department because "A friend of mine is a Leadership Studies major, and we had discussed political theories and philosophies in the past, and then he recommended that I take the Leadership Concepts course, and I did. We have had a couple of discussions about leadership traits and behaviors since I took the class." His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. He enjoyed the course because it reinforces all of the lessons he learned through individual experiences and helps individuals identify how to be an effective and ethical leader or follower. Congratulations, David!

### **International Student: Siyuan (Gary) Hou (Snu)**

Congratulations, Gary!

### **International Student: Boyu (Taylor) Chen (SIAS)**

Congratulations, Taylor!



## September 2020

### Virtual Student: Jeff Rolland

Jeff Rolland is the Virtual Student of the Month, working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. When asked why he became involved in the Department of Leadership Studies, Jeff said, “Everything in life is a leadership experience. It is! Prove me wrong! I feel there is so much to unlock within our teams and organizations if we take a step back and normalize self- reflection with action, psychological safety, and failing fast.” Jeff can’t pick a favorite leadership course because each applies to everyday life. “These courses can support individuals to find their leadership identity – their voice – to solve problems creatively! That is something you can hold forever.” Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Jeff is now heavily involved in activities in Columbus, Ohio, where he attended Ohio State University. He is the president of the Scarlet & Gay LGBTQ Alumni Society, which raises thousands of dollars in student scholarships. Jeff is also a facilitator for the Buckeye Leadership Fellows Workshop and assistant conductor for the Clintonville Community College Band. With an undergraduate degree in computer science and engineering, his hobbies outside school include virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and working with new software tools. He also enjoys writing, studying foreign languages, and working with individuals on project management skills they can implement. Congratulations, Jeff!

### International Student (SNU): Yiyang (Servanna) Wang

Originally from Shenyang, China, Servanna Wang is in her second year at SNU, working towards a degree in international finance, something she has been interested in since she was a child. On campus, she is involved in the student union and works in the sports and entertainment department, where she enjoys planning and executing events and meeting new friends. Servanna decided to become involved in the Department of Leadership Studies because it is useful no matter what you choose to do in the future. “Since we do not live alone in this society, we should know how to get along with people and lead the team.” Thus far, Servanna’s favorite leadership course is LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behaviors because it has taught her theories about leadership and practical knowledge that is useful in the real world. Outside of school, Servanna’s hobbies include reading and

traveling. "Reading books is a good way to gain knowledge and shape my character. There is a lot of valuable knowledge and interesting stories inside the book.... If we read only books, then the things we know are not three-dimensional enough. We need to experience what we may meet on the road." Congratulations, Servanna!

### **International Student (SIAS): Yifan (Jayden) Yang**

Congratulations, Jayden!



## **October 2020**

### **Virtual Student: Nicholas Larmer**

Originally from Dodge City, Kansas, Nicholas Larmer is the October Student of the Month. After transferring from Barton County Community College (BCCC), Nick is in his second year at Fort Hays and is working towards a Bachelor's degree in Technology Leadership with an emphasis on Technical Education. He aims to lead the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) program at BCCC. In Nick's community, he is a professional paramedic and firefighter and provides Emergency Medical Services to everybody in Ford County. Not only is this his career, but he also enjoys teaching others about EMS when he isn't on the job. On his days off, he teaches EMT courses at BCCC and coordinates free EMS conferences through Ford County Fire and EMS. Although it looked different this year due to COVID- 19, this conference helps provide others with valuable EMS information from local experts.

Nick has also created his own YouTube channel, blog, and podcast and uses various social media platforms to share his knowledge on EMS ethics, practices, and leadership. You may find him riding his bike around Dodge City when he isn't creating through these outlets. His all-time favorite activity is spending time with his wife, who is expecting their first child. His wife constantly influences and challenges Nick to create, grow, and share his knowledge with others. When asked why he became involved in Leadership Studies, Nick said, "to say I chose the Department of Leadership Studies would almost be a lie; the Department of Leadership Studies chose me. We don't choose our mentors; our mentors choose us." Although he is not always in the spotlight, Nick feels he has always been in some leadership position. Leaders are everywhere creating change, even behind the scenes. Nick's father was the first to instill the value of leadership in him and demonstrated every day the

importance of it, especially when he stepped into the role of Scoutmaster of Nick's Boy Scout Troop. Because of this, leadership has always been integrated into Nick's life in one way or another, and he is constantly using what he has learned through Leadership Studies in his day-to-day life and profession. Thus far, Nick's favorite course has been Leadership and Team Dynamics, taught by Dr. Lori Kniffin. Dr. Kniffin has created an environment that allows Nick to develop videos for discussion boards, instead of typing, for example. "She understands the individual's needs and cooperates with different learning styles." Nick always looks forward to the leadership courses he takes each semester and appreciates all the knowledge, experience, and encouragement he has gained from the Department of Leadership Studies. Congratulations, Nick!



## November 2020

### On-Campus Student: Kira Mestl

Originally from Ogallala, Nebraska, Kira Mestl is our November On-Campus Student of the Month. Kira is currently a junior majoring in leadership studies and is working on applying to the sonography program. At Fort Hays, Kira attends Encounter each week and is a member of the women's golf team. In her free time, she enjoys playing golf, spending time with family, and partaking in spontaneous activities with her friends. Having only joined the leadership department recently, Kira's favorite thing so far is the interaction between the professors and the students. She enjoys debating and having intellectual conversations over controversial subjects in class. The classes are very engaging, and they help to broaden her knowledge. Congratulations, Kira!

### Virtual Student: Nicole Brunt

Nicole Brunt, our Virtual Student of the Month, is in her first year of working towards her master's in leadership studies and information analysis and communications. After wanting to go back to school for her master's for a while, she decided this last spring to start. Through Fort Hays, the program is completely online and affordable, which Nicole appreciates. Having only taken a few courses thus far, her favorite has been Qualitative Research Methods. The research process seemed intimidating, but the course has made it doable and Nicole has enjoyed reading through various articles and reports, as well as interacting with her professor. Nicole likes to spend her free time gardening, reading,

working on crafts, and spending time with her family. Congratulations, Nicole!

### **International Student (Snu): Luyuan (Bill) Miao**

In his second year at SNU, Bill is our International Student of the Month. Bill is majoring in finance and working towards his leadership studies certificate. Bill was involved in leading an online summer camp through Fort Hays over the summer. He enjoys basketball, fitness, and watching movies, when he is not reading or studying in a coffee shop. Bill's favorite class so far is LDRS 300, particularly the power and influence theories. Bill finds the close relation between leadership and finance particularly interesting and useful and will apply the relation to his future career in finance. Congratulations, Bill!

### **International Student (SIAS): Yuqing (Rachel) Wang**

Rachel is our International Student of the Month. Rachel is in her third year at SIAS and is double majoring in Organizational Leadership and Business Administration, hoping to one day get her MBA. Rachel enjoys watching movies, jogging with friends, and playing basketball and badminton. Rachel is involved with the World Academy, an organization promoting women's leadership. Rachel is particularly interested in women's leadership and how leadership can help her in her future career. Rachel's favorite leadership class so far has been Leadership and Personal Development because she was able to reflect on her past and current leadership experience and focus on her future leadership goals. Congratulations, Rachel!



## **December 2020**

### **International Student: Boren (Hov) Tan**

Living in Shenyang, China, Hov is our December Student of the Month. Working towards a degree in organizational leadership, as well as international economy and trade, Hov is in his second year at Fort Hays. Hov took the course introduction to leadership studies this

semester and enjoyed learning about the advantages and disadvantages of different leadership styles. It changed his opinion about leadership, and he further understood its diversity. He chose to become involved in the leadership department because he thought it would help him as he plans for his future and potential career. He has learned many new things that he hadn't known before. Hov enjoys reading, taking photos, and playing sports like basketball and badminton in his free time. He also works with a company in Shanghai to help create video interviews and marketing that are shared with the public.

Congratulations, Hov!



## January 2021

### 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!



## February 2021

### 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!



**April 2021**

## 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!



## May 2021

### 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!



## July 2021

### 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

## 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 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 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 2021**

### **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!



## **February 2022**

**Abby Kennemer**

Abby Kennemer, a senior from Hays, Kansas, is one of our February Students of the Month. She is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Minor in Psychology. Abby chose Leadership Studies because Dr. Seth Kastle spoke about the Leadership Studies Certificate in a gen ed course. Abby's favorite class has been LDRS 670 Leadership and Personal Development with Dr. Donnette Noble. Abby plays the trumpet in the Tiger Marching Band, Tiger Pep Band, FHSU Jazz I, FHSU Symphonic Winds, and FHSU Wind Ensemble and is the Trumpet Section Leader for the Tiger Marching Band. Congratulations, Abby!

### Niassa HarrisWazoua

Niassa Harris Wazoua, a West Palm Beach, Florida junior, is our February Student of the Month. She is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership. Niassa chose Leadership studies after having the privilege of being a student research assistant that focused on the lived experiences of women leaders who identify as BIPOC. During her research, Niassa was inspired by the different women leaders she had learned about and wanted to join their ranks. Niassa's favorite class has been LDRS 310 because it has given her a platform to develop her service-learning project. Niassa is involved in the Fort Hays Honor Society and the Black Student Union. Outside of school, Niassa enjoys baking, dancing, and being a mom of two. Congratulations, Niassa!

### Trisha Sylvester

Trisha Sylvester, a master's student from Washington, Utah, is our February Student of the Month. She is in her second year of pursuing a Master of Professional Studies: in Organizational Leadership. Trisha got involved with the Department of Leadership Studies after a conversation with Dr. Brent Goertzen. She chose the program because it focused on the HUMAN side of an organization and provided her with opportunities to engage with others through the field of leadership. Trisha's favorite classes have been LDRS 801 and LDRS 802 because they have given her a solid foundation for everything she has been exposed to in leadership studies. She has been involved in the FHSU virtual senate and is active in her church and local high school. Trisha enjoys cooking, working in her yard, going to car shows, and spending time with her furry friends Sophie, a Silky Terrier, and Ace, a teacup Yorkie. Congratulations, Trisha!



## Slater Heglin

Slater Heglin is one of our March 2022 Students of The Month. Slater is a junior from Ulysses, KS, and is majoring in Business Education with a Concentration in Talent Development. Slater is also receiving certificates in Leadership Studies, Human Resource Management, Business Management, Banking and Marketing. He is involved in FHSU Society for Human Resource Management, FHSU Foundation & Alumni Association Tigers Forever, Circle K, Collegiate 4-H and Encounter. Slater has always had a passion for servant-leadership. Through his passion, he wanted to learn more about leadership in general. Slater's favorite class has been LDRS 300 because it provided him with an overview of leadership. Slater's hobbies include singing at various events with his family. Congratulations, Slater!

## Katrina Barragree

Congratulations, Katrina!

## Neshanne Dean

Neshanne Dean is one of our Students of the Month from Portland, Oregon. Neshanne is a senior working to obtain her Bachelor of General Studies degree with a concentration in education and Human Resources and a Certificate in Leadership Studies. Neshanne is involved with multiple organizations within the Air Force, including the Top Three Organization in her squadron that helps build leadership skills and provides mentorship to lower ranks. She enjoys signing up for half marathons around the world, including running in Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, England, Ireland, and her next race will be in Chicago. Neshanne also enjoys reading, specifically fantasy or sci-fi. Neshanne's favorite Leadership class has been LDRS 310 Field Work in Leadership Studies because she has been able to implement the leadership and behavioral theories she has learned in the previous courses in a project that benefits her community. Congratulations, Neshanne!

## Henry McVeigh

Congratulations, Henry!



## James Budge

James Budge is one of our April Students of the Month. James is a junior from Haven, Kansas, majoring in Marketing with a minor in Music and working towards a Certificate in Leadership Studies. James has been involved with Marching Band, Pep Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Jazz Ensemble I, Low Brass Ensemble, and the Honors College. Outside of school, James enjoys working on cars and riding his motorcycle. James said his favorite leadership course has been LDRS 300 Intro to Leadership Concepts because “it changed my perspective on leadership, showing that it is a process constantly being more thoroughly understood.” Congratulations, James!

## Seth Dewey

Congratulations, Seth!

## Yilin (Evelyn) Wang

Congratulations, Yilin (Evelyn)!



**September 2022**

## Annzia Howard

Annzia Howard is an on-campus freshman pursuing a degree in Music Performance-sound programming. Annzia became interested in leadership studies because it is a trait she could take anywhere, no matter what she chooses. Annzia enjoys her Discovering Leadership course because of the conversations she gets to have with many students from different walks of life. These conversations allow her to see concepts from many different perspectives other than her own.

Annzia is involved in the Black Student Union and FHSU's Jazzband. Outside school, she enjoys painting, writing songs and poetry, hanging out with friends and family, and learning new skills. Congratulations, Annzia!

## Shawna Sheaman

Shawna Sheaman is a virtual senior graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership this fall. Shawna is an adult learner, returning to college nearly 30 years after starting her journey at Kansas State University. Her son, who recently

graduated from Colorado State University, inspired her to return to school part-time in 2018. In 2020, after facing unemployment caused by the pandemic, Shawna decided to return to school full-time. Shawna has held many leadership roles in the last 30 years. She discovered that she loves leading others, creating lasting relationships, and learning something new daily. What Shawna loved most about her Leadership courses were the Blackboard conversations that provided insight into different corporate cultures' challenges, unique approaches, and exciting outcomes. Shawna also enjoys her leadership professors because of their supportive, encouraging nature and dedication to teaching.

In her community, Shawna has volunteered at Presbyterian St. Luke's oncology floor, Habitat for Humanity- Denver, Missions Ministry, Extreme Community Makeover, and the local grade school as a reading tutor. Shawna's hobbies include trail riding on dirt bikes, gardening, watching movies, cooking, camping, and any time outdoors. Congratulations, Shawna, we are so proud of you!

### **Yifei (Warden) Huang**

Congratulations, Yifei!



## **October 2022**

### **Tarah Stockebrand**

Tarah Stockbrand is a junior from Chanute, KS majoring in Organizational Leadership. Tarah chose Organizational Leadership because she is passionate about working with communities and is excited about the civil leadership opportunities and the skills she will learn. Her favorite part about Leadership Studies classes is her interactions with her classmates and instructors. On campus, Tarah is involved in Christian Challenge. Tarah enjoys music and making art with watercolors and ink. Congratulations, Tarah!

### **Christina Linn**

Christina (Chrissy) Linn is a senior majoring in General Studies-General Business and Leadership. Chrissy's favorite class so far has been Leadership and Personal Development because it has given her a chance to self-reflect on who she is as a leader and a follower. Chrissy would like to be someone who inspires others, and taking Leadership, and Personal

Development has helped her in that journey. After finishing school, Chrissy would like to work with the youth in her community and be an influential guide and supporter. Outside school, Chrissy enjoys traveling, fishing, crafts, scrapbooking, junk journaling, crocheting, quilting, baking, and gardening. Congratulations, Christina!

### **Christina Haselhorst**

Christina Haselhorst is a 2nd-year master's student from Dodge City studying Organizational Leadership. Christina was drawn to the MPS program because she wanted an outlet for improving her leadership skills and professional development and growing her understanding of the unique challenges of organizations. Christina has enjoyed all her Leadership classes because they provide new insights into the leadership process, theories, and ideas she had never thought of before enrolling. Christina is a Director of Foundation and Community Relations at Dodge City Community College. Christina is involved in the Miss Kansas Organization, New Chance, Inc. Board of Directors, and The Ford County Historical Society. She performs as Miss Kitty at the Boot Hill Museum. Christina enjoys gardening, vacationing, meditation, decorating, and spending time with her three children and husband outside school and work. Congratulations, Christina!

### **Miaomiao Mia Ding**

Congratulations, Mia!



## **November 2022**

### **August Nilsson**

Congratulations, August!

### **Elizabeth Sutherland**

Elizabeth is a junior from Mulvane, KS, majoring in Leadership Studies and minoring in Sociology. Elizabeth chose the Leadership Studies department because she enjoys learning about leadership and its career opportunities. Elizabeth's favorite class has been Women in Leadership. She loves this class because it eye-opening the realities of women in leadership positions. At Fort Hays, Elizabeth is a student ambassador and is involved in the Society for Human Resource Management. Her hobbies include working on art projects and

spending time with friends and family. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

### **Elizabeth Traut**

Elizabeth is a senior from Wichita, KS majoring in General Studies with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Elizabeth returned to school to finish her degree and apply what she learned in class to her career. Her favorite class would be Leadership and Personal Development because she uses the tactics she learned from class and applies them to the real world. As an online student, Elizabeth does not get to participate in FHSU activities, but that doesn't stop her. She is involved with Junior Achievement and teaches sessions in several elementary school classrooms. When Elizabeth is not volunteering, she makes cupcakes for her friends and family. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

### **Curtis Lindsey**

Congratulations, Curtis!



## **February 2023**

### **Nevaeh Copenhaver**

Nevaeh is a second-year student studying Psychology and working on her certificate in Leadership Studies. Growing up, Nevaeh was involved in many activities within her school and community. Those experiences sparked a passion for leadership and engagement. Nevaeh's favorite class has been Introduction to Leadership Theories because it was thought-provoking and opened her eyes to all the different aspects of leadership. Nevaeh is involved in the marching band color guard, Psychology Club, and Tiger Team. When she is not busy with school, Neveah enjoys reading books, fitness, holistic health, the art of letter writing, and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. Congratulations, Neveah!



## **March 2023**

### **Ryan Beisner**

Ryan is our March 2023 online student of the month. Ryan is a senior receiving a Bachelor

of Science in Technology Leadership with a certificate in Leadership Studies. He is originally from Hays, KS, but currently calls Springfield, MO, home. Ryan's favorite class has been LDRS 310, Field Work in Leadership Studies, because of its unique format where students can put their learned skills to practice. Outside of school, Ryan is involved at his local BPOE Elks Lodge, where he participates in programs supporting US service veterans and homeless aid. His hobbies include hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, and leisurely at the lake. Congratulations, Ryan!

### **Ryan Patterson**

Ryan is our March 2023 on-campus student of the month. Ryan is a freshman majoring in Business Management with a minor in Leadership Studies. He is from Falcon, Colorado, and just completed his redshirt year in wrestling at Fort Hays State University. His favorite class is Leadership in Group Dynamics because it teaches real-life skills that are helpful when working with teams. Ryan's hobbies include wrestling and playing golf. Congratulations, Ryan!

### **LeNae Knight**

LeNae is our March 2023 on-campus student of the month. LeNae is a sophomore majoring in Agronomy Business. She is from Jewell, KS, and is a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau and the LLC community. LeNae's favorite class is Introduction to Leadership Behaviors because she enjoys strategic planning units. After all, it allows her class to practice service in leadership. LeNae enjoys intramural basketball and hanging out with her friends. Congratulations, LeNae!



## **May 2023**

### **Alyssa Mikkelson**

Alyssa is a freshman from Salina, KS and majoring in music education. She got involved in Leadership Programs through her LLC, Help Starts Here, and has really enjoyed LDRS 200: Discovering Leadership because it has introduced her to many different forms of leadership. Alyssa plays trumpet and is involved with the FHSU marching band, wind ensemble, and symphonic winds. When not in school, Alyssa enjoys being a member of Catholic Disciples, watching movies, or going on drives with her friends. Congratulations, Alyssa!

## Kegan Fisher

Kegan is a senior from Eureka, KS, majoring in Organizational Leadership. Kegan spent five years in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and wanted to expand on the leadership skills he had acquired. In the future, he would like to be involved in local government in either Eureka, KS or Benton, KS. By refining his leadership skills, he also plans to pass them down to his daughters so that they can be the best at whatever they decide to do in life. Kegan's favorite professor has been Dr. Donnette Noble and has enjoyed every single class taken with her. He admires how Dr. Noble encourages critical analyzation of himself and how she has helped him gain a better understanding of his leadership skills. When he is not working on school, Kegan enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife, Brooke, and two daughters, Bryn, and Kam. Kegan is involved in the Wild Kansas Organization and Hunters Safety Courses and currently serves as their secretary. His favorite part about this position is being able to provide scholarships to high school students. Congratulations, Kegan, and keep up the good work!



## September 2023

### Chris Weber

Chris is the Leadership Programs September on-campus Student of the Month. Chris is a Psychology major from Wichita, KS. Chris joined the Leadership Programs because he wanted to better develop his skills and become a better leader in any field he chooses to go into. Chris's favorite class is currently LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies because he can apply knowledge from previous leadership classes while making a meaningful contribution to his community. Chris is participating in the "Can We Just Talk?" team with Breathe Coffeehouse. Outside of school, Chis enjoys disc golf, watching movies, and hanging out with friends. Congratulations, Chris!

### Barb Spina

Barb is the Leadership Programs September Online Student of the Month! Barb is a fourth-year student from Marco Island, FL, working towards a degree in General Studies and a minor in Leadership Studies. She got involved with our programs to gain valuable leadership skills needed for her own professional development. In her free time, Barb enjoys reading, biking, boating, playing with her dog, and volunteering with various medical based non-

profits. Barbs' favorite class has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development. Barb enjoys this class because she can analyze her own leadership strengths and weaknesses and apply it to her current professional life. Congratulations, Barb!



## October 2023

### Abigail Schlatter

Abigail is the October On-Campus Student of the Month! Abigail is a sophomore studying Secondary Education- Math. Abigail got involved with Leadership Programs through a requirement for her major, and her favorite course has been LDRS 200: Discovering Leadership with Justin Greenleaf. She has enjoyed being able to learn about the different facets of leadership and how she create positive change in the world around her. Abigail is involved with Christian Challenge and MACS Club. Outside of school, she enjoys model making, watercolors, knitting, and watching movies. Congratulations, Abigail!

### Riana Bates

Riana is the October Graduate Student of the Month! Riana is in her second year of her master's in Medical Imaging Administration and taking LDRS 650: Principles of Organizational Leadership. LDRS 650: Principles of Organizational Leadership has been Riana's favorite because it has broadened her knowledge about organizational design and has helped her to grow and adapt to her current position at HaysMed. Riana is a mother and enjoys spending time with her family, going to her kids' extracurricular activities, traveling, and going to concerts. Congratulations, Riana!

### Kelly Lagree

Kelly is the October Online Student of the Month! Kelly is in her senior year of her bachelor's in science in Organizational Leadership. Kelly originally started school over 20 years ago but put it on hold to raise her family. Today, Kelly hopes to eventually complete a master's degree and teach at the college level. So far, her favorite class has been LDRS 306: Leadership and Team Dynamics because it has provided her with new prospectives on how to approach leadership in a group setting. Outside of school and work, Kelly enjoys cooking, playing with her dog, Lily, and watching the Kansas City Chiefs. Congratulations, Kelly!



## November 2023

### Caden Riat

Caden is the Leadership Program's November on-campus student of the month. Caden is a junior and Hays native studying Organizational Leadership. Caden chose to get involved in Leadership Programs because of his interest in becoming an effective leader and making a difference in his community. Caden's favorite class has been Introduction to Leadership Behaviors with Justin Greenleaf because he was able to make meaningful connections with his classmates. Caden is involved at the golf course with the men's association and enjoys watching the Kansas City Chiefs. Congratulations, Caden!

### Nathan Thammavongsa

Nathan is one of Leadership Program's November students of the month. Nathan is a senior receiving his bachelor's degree of General Studies concentration in Organizational Leadership. Nathan chose to get involved with Leadership Program's after his experiences with leadership in the military. As he transitions to a civilian career, he hopes to use his education to help his company excel and inspire others to complete common goals. Nathan's favorite class was LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies. He enjoyed this class because it is not a traditional lecture, but a collaborative effort between the students and the professor. Nathan is a volunteer at Lao Buddhist Association of Kansas and has participated in in Spirit AeroSystems-Spirit Employee Reservist and Veterans (SERVE). Along with this, Nathan enjoys hunting, fishing, going on family vacations, and coaching his kids in sports. Congratulations, Nathan!

### Aaron Wright

Congratulations, Aaron!



## December 2023

### Shania Lopez-Cabrera

Shania is our December Student of the Month! Shania is a senior from Lawrence, KS, majoring in Organizational Leadership. Shaina began her academic journey in 2014. After

seven years in the banking industry, she decided to come back to school full time. Shaina enjoys the organizational leadership program because of the numerous post-graduation opportunities it will offer. Shaina's favorite class has been Leadership and Team Dynamics with Dr. Lori Kniffin because of the real time team experiences provided through the course. When not in school, Shaina is involved in several different community organizations including Lawrence Kansas Pride, Jayhawk Breakfast Rotary Club, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Along with this, she is the 2023-24 President of LWN, a professional networking organization in Lawrence. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her wife, hanging out with her cats, reading, and sewing. Congratulations, Shania!

### **Mackenzie Hagerman**

Mackenzie is our December Student of the Month! Mackenzie is a first-year student studying criminal justice and pursuing a Leadership Studies Minor. She got involved in the program because she wants to be an effective leader in the criminal justice field.

Mackenzie's favorite class has been Introduction to Leadership Theories with Dr. Lori Kniffin because it provided a conceptual foundation to leadership processes. Mackenzie is involved in the Honors College, Criminal Justice Club, and Christian Challenge. In her free time, she enjoys being outside, reading, and baking. Congratulations, Mackenzie!

### **Jason Groth**

Congratulations, Jason!



## **February 2024**

### **Brandon Williams**

Congratulations, Brandon!

### **Eric Haskins**

Congratulations, Eric!



## March 2024

### Eric McConnell

Eric is the Leadership Program's March Student of the Month. Eric Organizational Leadership major from Kansas City, KS. Eric, who works for the railroad industry, has had many great leaders who have given him the confidence to excel in life. Through his BS in Organizational Leadership, Eric wishes to pass the same energy on to others in his field. Eric's favorite class has been LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies with Dr. Lori Kniffin. When Eric is not traveling for work, he loves trying different coffee beans, hiking, and visiting family and Texas. Congratulations, Eric!

### Johnny Kuntz

Congratulations, Johnny!

### Bryant Yao Yu

Bryant Yao Yu is the Leadership Program's International March Student of the Month. Bryant is from Jiang Xi, China, and is currently studying finance. Bryant got involved with Leadership Programs to better manage team relationships and help them to reach their maximum potential. Bryant's favorite class was Leadership and management. In his free time, Bryant enjoys playing basketball and digital peripherals. Congratulations, Bryant!



## April 2024

### Chloe Chesney

Chloe is the Leadership Programs April On-Campus Student of the Month! Chloe is a freshman from Salina, KS, and is currently studying in the Criminal Justice and Military Science programs. Chloe got involved in the Military Science Leadership minor with the encouragement of CPT Byun and Dr. Kastle. Chloe's favorite class has been MIL 302: Holistic Health and Fitness because of CPT Byun's interests in her students' goals and its mix of classroom and physical activity. Chloe would like to join the Kansas Army National Guard in the future. Outside of school, Chloe is a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Criminal Justice Club, Concert Choir, and Encounter Bible Studies. Congratulations, Chloe!

### **Shane Musgrave**

Shane is the Leadership Programs April Online Student of the Month! Shane is an online student from Alaska and is in his third and final year of his MPS in Organizational Leadership. Shane, who will graduate in December, chose to get involved in Leadership Programs after witnessing both effective and ineffective leadership in the workplace and wanting to improve upon his own. He hopes that with his prior 15 years of experience and education to become a great administrator. Shane has enjoyed all his leadership classes because of the vast challenges each course brings. Through his education, he has learned that no idea or solution will work for every organization or individual, and that the knowledge he has obtained will help him flourish and achieve his long-term goals. Outside of school and work, Shane enjoys all outdoor activities and loves to grow his own garden each summer. Congratulations, Shane!

### **Haoji Fang (Lucifer)**

Lucifer is one of the Leadership Programs April International Students of the Month! Lucifer is originally from Liaoning Dalian, China, and is in their second year with FHSU. Lucifer is currently majoring in international trade and business and has taken an emphasis in leadership. They decided to take leadership courses because they believed that it is a critical skill that can make a positive impact in a variety of areas. In the future, Lucifer hopes to apply the leadership theories and skills they have learned to the field of international trade and economy. Outside of school, Lucifer enjoys listening to music, playing table tennis, playing basketball, writing calligraphy, playing chess, and exercising. Congratulations, Lucifer!

### **Joy Zhang ZengYiWen**

Joy is one of the Leadership Programs April International Students of the Month! Joy is from Shenyang Liaoning, China and is currently studying finance with a certificate in leadership studies. Joy got involved in Leadership Programs because of her interest in interpersonal relationships and psychological knowledge. Her favorite course has been Introduction to Leadership Behavior because it expanded her understanding and knowledge of leadership concepts. Outside of school, Joy volunteers with Chinese teenagers. This campaign is dedicated to helping people in need such as the elderly and disabled. This volunteering has allowed Joy to be more involved in her community and has taught her many social skills. Congratulations, Joy!

## Russel Shuo Liu

Russel is one of the Leadership Programs April International Students of the Month! Russel is from Shenyang, China, and is currently studying Marketing Management. Russel chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because he was interested in learning how to manage and lead others. Russel is an outgoing person and loves to negotiate and make friends with others. Russel's favorite professor has been Dr. Aurther Ma because of his energetic and patient nature. Russel would like to one day work for a multicultural organization. Russel has been involved in Chinese culture club and badminton club. Outside of school, Russel enjoys visiting the library and reading novels and history books. Congratulations, Russel!

Congratulations, Elena!

Congratulations, Flores!

Congratulations, Clara!

Congratulations, Shelley!



## May 2024

## Luis Mejia

Luis is the Leadership Programs May Online Student of the Month! Luis is from Lima, Peru and is currently studying Information Networking and Telecommunications while pursuing a Minor in Leadership Studies. Luis chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because of his desire to learn and grow. He sees the value in expanding his knowledge, gaining fresh perspectives, and refining his skills, and engaging with Leadership Programs has allowed him to do so. He has found that participating in these programs has let him connect with a diverse range of leaders to exchange insights and enrich his own leadership journey. Luis's favorite class has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development as Dr. Donnette Noble has provided a unique approach to theory and real-world applications as well as her dedication to empowering students to explore their own personal leadership. Outside of school, Luis enjoys partaking in boxing, running, and anything to do with motorcycles.

Congratulations Luis!

### **Curtis Lindsey**

Curtis is the Leadership Programs May Student of the Month! Curtis is from Cross Plains, TN, and is currently working towards his master's in professional studies in Organizational Leadership. Curtis decided to pursue his MPS because of his belief in the power of effective leadership. Ultimately, Curtis has a long-term goal of landing an executive leadership position for an organization. Curtis's favorite classes were Ethical Leadership and Leadership and Personal Development. Ethical Leadership taught him the importance of integrity, consistency, honesty, and transparency in his leadership approaches and Leadership and Personal Development challenged him to take deep inward looks at his behaviors as a leader. Curtis has been married to his lovely wife for 10 years and they have four amazing children. When he is not at work or school, Curtis enjoys spending time with his family, watching football, and spending time outdoors. Congratulations, Curtis!

### **Justin Baosen Ni**

Justin is one of the Leadership Programs May International Students of the Month! Justin is from Shenyang, China and is currently working towards his degree in Organizational Leadership. Justin chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs as it provides skills that are essential to his desire to pursue a future career as a lawyer. Justin is passionate about leadership as he believes it is vital for achieving social justice as well as making an impact in any field. Within the university, Justin takes part in entrepreneurship activities as well as working in the Youth League Committee's publicity department. Justin's favorite leadership class has been LDRS640: Principles of Civic Leadership, where he learned about the significance of nonprofit organizations and was inspired by their commitment to social justice and addressing various human needs. Outside of school, Justin enjoys studying the history of the Chinese legal system as it provides insights into the development and evolution of legal principles and practices in China. Congratulations, Justin!

### **Kael Xiaobing Wang**

Kael is one of the Leadership Programs May International Students of the Month! Kael is from Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China and is currently working towards his degree in Organizational Leadership. Kael chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because it will help in his future studies and work as well as giving him a better grasp of

leadership knowledge overall. His favorite leadership class has been LDRS640: Principles of Civic Leadership where he was able to better understand nonprofit organizations. He enjoyed having Dr. Arthur Ma as a professor as he provided vivid explanations which furthered his understanding of leadership. Some activities that Kael has gotten involved with are various survey's relating to college student's psychological problems as well as English speaking proficiencies. Outside of school Kael enjoys playing table tennis with his friends and exercising! Congratulations Kael!

### **Hannah Ziao Xu**

Congratulations, Hannah!



## **June 2024**

### **Derrick Yu Hao**

Congratulations, Derrick!

### **Trevor Yifeng Wang**

Trevor is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month! Trevor is from LiaoNing Shenyang and is currently working towards his degree in Finance with a minor in Global Leadership. Trevor chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because of the opportunities provided to enhance skills in communication, decision-making, and team management. He also chose to be involved because it offered chances to network with like-minded individuals and expand professional connections. His favorite class has been LDRS310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies with Dr. Arthur Ma where he was able to learn a lot about leadership and develop many friendships. Outside of school Trevor enjoys playing basketball! Congratulations Trevor!

### **Tony Donghai Liu**

Tony is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month! Tony is from Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China and is currently working towards his degree in International Economics and Trade, a Leadership Certificate, and has plans to pursue his Masters in Leadership as well. Tony Chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because of his desire to have a deeper understanding of leadership in order to improve his

ability to enter the workplace in the future. His favorite class has been LDRS306: Leadership and Team Dynamics where he has realized the importance of team and the limitation of the individual. Outside of school Tony is involved in a comedy club called “Windy Day”. He is also a big fan of US football since he used to play running back in high school. Congratulations Tony!

### Andy Zibo Lin

Andy is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month! Andy is from Zhejiang Wenzhou and is currently working towards his degree in Marketing with a minor in Leadership Studies. Andy chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because of his belief that leadership skills are crucial to achieving success in the business world and for making a positive impact. His favorite class topic has been Strategic Leadership where he has been able to gain in-depth knowledge and practical strategies for leading teams effectively. The class also made the learning very engaging and applicable. Andy has gotten involved in the Marketing Club as well virtual community activities related to business innovation. Outside of school Andy enjoys reading business books, playing computer games with his friends and playing basketball! Congratulations Andy!



## September 2024

### Sierra Smith

Sierra, a sophomore majoring in Cybersecurity, is one of our September Students of the Month. Sierra is currently pursuing a Leadership Studies certificate. Sierra got involved with Leadership Programs after hearing about our certificate program in a general education class. She wanted to fill some of her electives while also learning how to become a better leader. Her favorite class is currently LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behaviors.

**“My instructor is really engaging and allows us to try out our work we are studying instead of just taking notes and a test. I have been able to really immerse myself in the topic with class discussions and it is overall a great class that I would recommend to everyone.”**

Sierra is the president of the FHSU Cybersecurity Club and a Community Assistant in Victor E. Village. Her hobbies include gaming, finding and listening to new music, traveling, and

journaling. Congratulations, Sierra!

### Katy Harris

Katy Harris, a sophomore majoring in English Writing, is one of our September Students of the Month. Katy is currently working on her Certificate in Leadership Studies. Katy chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because of her previous experience with the Girl Scouts of America. Her favorite course has been LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behavior. She enjoys this course because it allows her to learn techniques and processes through in class activities. Outside of class, Katy is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, and LLC Pal for Career Ready Tigers, and the secretary of the Esports club. She also enjoys reading, watching TV, writing screenplays, and crocheting. Congratulations, Katy!

### Logan Konrade

Congratulations, Logan!

### Rebecca Stegman

Rebecca Stegman, a 2nd year graduate student, is one of our September Students of the Month. Rebecca is currently working on her MPS in Organizational Leadership. She chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because the program offered a unique opportunity to develop skills, enhance her confidence, and learn from diverse perspectives. She also wanted to challenge herself to step outside her comfort zone and take on new responsibilities.

**“Every class has offered different insights, skills, and perspectives that I’ve been able to apply in various situations. I truly value the journey I’ve been on, and I look forward to continuing to grow through these classes.”**

Outside of school, Rebecca is passionate about giving back to her community. She volunteers with Second City Canine Rescue and Journeys—The Road Home. Both experiences have taught her the value of compassion and community. She also enjoys discovering new places, immersing herself in different cultures, trying local foods, and meeting new people. Congratulations, Rebecca!

### Jiani Song (Jenny)

Jiani Song (Jenny) is one of the Leadership Programs' International Students of the Month for September 2024. From Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China, Jenny is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Finance. In the future, she hopes to start her own company. Jenny is actively involved in the Student Council Management Department. Outside of school, she enjoys a wide range of activities including playing the piano, skating, ballet, and Taekwondo—where she earned her black belt just last year.

**“I chose to participate in the Leadership Programs because I wanted to enhance my leadership skills and make a positive impact on my community,” Jenny explains. “I understand that effective leadership is crucial in today’s world. The program’s emphasis on social responsibility and teamwork resonated with me, and I was eager to learn from experienced leaders.”**

Jenny’s favorite course so far has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development. She appreciated the opportunity to explore various leadership styles, such as transformational and transactional leadership, and their effects on organizational culture. Jenny found the instructors to be both knowledgeable and engaging, and the course deepened her understanding of EQ (Emotional Intelligence) leadership principles, helping her learn how to motivate others more effectively. Congratulations, Jenny!

### **Biyao Wang (Crystal)**

Biyao Wang (Crystal) is one of the Leadership Programs' International Students of the Month for September 2024. From the Henan Province, China, Crystal is majoring in finance and pursuing a certificate in Global Leadership. Crystal is active in the Innovation Association and English Corner. Outside of school, Crystal enjoys watching the stock market and talking to overseas students. Crystal’s favorite class has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development. This class has taught them about emotional intelligence and understanding cultural differences. Congratulations, Crystal!

### **Xuanlin Wang (Jason)**

Xuanlin Wang (Jason) is one of the Leadership Programs' International Students of the Month for September 2024. From Harbin Heilongjiang Province, China, Jason is pursuing a major in Marketing and a certificate in Global Leadership. Jason is actively involved in English Club and English Corner where he improves his spoken English and communication

skills. Along with this, Jason enjoys various fitness activities such as strength training, aerobics, yoga, Pilates, and high-intensity interval training (HIIT).

**“My favorite leadership course was taught by Professor Ma, which not only provided practical methods for enhancing leadership but also helped me better understand and apply the core concepts and skills of leadership through specific cases and real-world experience.”**

Jason got involved with Leadership Programs came from his desire to enhance his leadership and management skills. He views leadership as an interdisciplinary subject that transcends the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines. For Jason, leadership is not just about occupying a position but about preparing to handle responsibilities and challenges in both professional and personal life. Congratulations, Jason!

### Zhe Gong (Alexander)

Congratulations, Alexander!



## October 2024

### Paige Lamatsch

Paige is one of the Leadership Programs October Students of the Month! Originally from Hoisington, KS, Paige is a freshman majoring in Medical Diagnostic Imaging and Leadership. She joined Leadership Programs to expand her leadership skills, and her favorite class so far has been LDRS 300: Leadership Concepts with Dr. Lori Kniffin.

**“Lori is such a great professor making the class even more enjoyable.”**

Outside of classes, Paige is active in Catholic Tigers and intermural sports. She enjoys working out, cooking, baking, reading, watching documentaries, cleaning, and hanging out with friends. Congratulations, Paige!

### Isabella Renfro

Congratulations, Isabella!

## Landon Lane

Congratulations, Landon!



## November 2024

## Novi Kusumaningrum

Novi is one of the Leadership Programs November Students of the Month. Novi is a first-year graduate student from Jakarta, Indonesia. Novi is currently working towards her MPS in Organizational Leadership. Novi has been fortunate to be a part of an organization that has slowly grown her leadership skills for the last 10 years. She feels that studying leadership will give her a better structure in how she observes and makes decisions at work.

Leadership Programs have also helped her to define what kind of leader she is and how that affects her team and organization.

**“In terms of course materials, I really enjoyed LDRS 802, Organizational System, Change, and Leadership. This was my very first class in the program and I was overwhelmed with all the new things I needed to be familiar with to get the learning going. However, I immediately see many similarities to the leadership practices I have experienced and leaving with many ideas that I can implement at work. The applied final project was a system review of a unit in my organization, and I presented it to the unit. They are now reviewing and updating a policy based on my paper. I am very proud that even from my first class in the program, I can produce a document that I can actually use to improve my organization.”**

Coming from a family of brilliant cooks, Novi enjoys cooking in her free time. Along with this, she reads books in both English and Indonesian. Since beginning the MPS program, she has tried reading more books in Indonesian to give her brain a break. Congratulations, Novi!

## Addyson Brown

Congratulations, Addyson!

## Kasheia Peterson

Congratulations, Kasheia!

## Steven Adams II

Congratulations, Steven!



## December 2024

### Breanna Reynolds

Breanna is the Leadership Program's December Student of the Month! Brenna is a graduate from Russell High School, and previously lived in Hays and Hector, Arkansas. Breanna is currently majoring in Business Administration in Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management. She decided to take leadership courses to develop the skills and knowledge that it takes to make a meaningful impact in her community and professional life. She hopes to grow personally by enhancing her communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills!

**“My favorite leadership class has been Introduction to Leadership Behavior. This interdisciplinary course provided a comprehensive foundation in understanding the tasks, strategies, and skills essential for effective leadership. What made it stand out was its emphasis on moving from theory to practical application, allowing students to directly engage with real-world leadership processes. The course balanced the exploration of basic concepts for personal skill development with an in-depth look at organizational leadership behavior, making it both relevant and impactful. It not only equipped me with valuable tools for leadership but also deepened my understanding of how to inspire and guide others effectively.”**

Outside of school, Brenna and her husband enjoy exploring and spending time in nature. They also enjoy attending air shows, hockey games, and NASCAR races! Congratulations, Brenna!

### Harper Lubbers

Harper Lubbers is the Leadership Program's December Student of the Month! Harper is a Sophomore from Wichita, Kansas. She is currently majoring in Business Management with a Certificate in Leadership Studies and working towards a Master of Business Administration. Harper is involved in Alpha Kappa Psi as the Vice President of Fundraising, the Fort Hays Honor Society as the Academic Event Coordinator, and International Business club as the secretary. Harper chose to take leadership courses to learn how to become a better leader

in the classroom setting.

**“So far, my favorite leadership class has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. I found all the theories so fascinating and applicable to real life situations. The in-class activities were so helpful and engaging!”**

Harper loves to run, lift weights, bake, cook, listen to music, get creative, and spend time with friends and family. Congratulations, Harper!

### **Jasmine Jennings-Rentz**

Jasmine Jennings-Rentz is the Leadership Program’s December Student of the Month! Jasmine is a first-year student from Detroit, Michigan. She is currently taking individual leadership courses as a Graduate Non-Degree seeking student. She is a committee member for the NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) Mid-level Administrators Steering Committee. She was also a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, and a GED Course instructor for the Dallas Public Library! Jasmine wants to pursue a doctoral degree in leadership studies starting Fall 2025. A colleague of hers went to FHSU as an undergraduate and spoke highly about the Leadership Program. This recommendation encouraged her to look at FHSU as a place she could start her journey with leadership studies!

**“Dr. Whitaker suggested that I take Theoretical Foundations of Leadership (LDRS 801) as a path for me to learn about leadership studies based on my professional and academic interests. It was such a great decision to take this course because it has truly taught me new things about leadership while also affirming the knowledge that I already have. This course has prepared me to facilitate leadership education at TXST while also getting me excited for next semester’s course.”**

Jasmine loves watching historically influenced and time-period television shows, as well as reading autobiographies and memoirs. She and her Husband spend the weekends roller skating, going to movies, and going to community-oriented events. Congratulations, Jasmine!

### **Austin Baker**

Congratulations, Austin!



## January 2025

### Riley Petitjean

Riley Petitjean is the Leadership Programs January Student of the Month!

Riley is a freshman from Osage City, KS majoring in Communications, and is currently working towards a certificate in leadership. Riley is the Vice-President of Victor E. and Hansen Hall Community Council and the Fort Hays State Rotaract Club. She also is a part of the Fort Hays State Honor Society, Leadership Studies Association, and Catholic Tigers. Riley chose to get involved with the Leadership Programs to further cultivate her leadership skills and learn how to promote positive change and growth in her community.

**“My favorite Leadership class I have taken would be Discovering Leadership with Mr. Greenleaf. The class was interactive, and I learned so many new things about leadership that I had not previously realized. One of the biggest takeaways I took from the class is that leadership is a process, not a position. I am excited to take my current Leadership course, Introduction to Leadership Behavior, this semester.”**

Outside of school, Riley loves creating art, listening to music, and trying new restaurants around Hays! Congratulations Riley!



## February 2025

### Houston Frank

Houston Frank is one of the Leadership Programs February Students of the Month!

Houston is originally from Scott City, KS and is currently in his freshman year here at FHSU. He is majoring in Ag business and also a part of the FHSU Men's Wrestling team. Houston became involved with the Leadership Programs to become a member of the Tiger Traditions Learning Community. His favorite leadership class has been LDRS 302- An Introduction into Leadership Behaviors.

**“In LDRS 302 we engage in an activity every day and they are always interesting and fun.”**

Outside of his academics and wrestling, Houston enjoys going hunting and fishing!  
Congratulations, Houston!

### **Michael Santana**

Micheal Santana is one of the Leadership Programs February Students of the Month!

Congratulations, Michael!

### **Erin Matheson**

Erin Matheson is one of the Leadership Programs February Students of the Month!

Erin Matheson is the Leadership Programs online Student of the Month. She is from Denton, TX and in her first year here at FHSU. She is currently working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership! She chose to get involved with the Leadership programs with a goal, “to bring distinct leadership focus to public administration that draws on scientific research and a deep understanding of transformational leadership to inspire a greater sense of meaning in work and more successful change efforts for growing cities.” She realized that the leadership programs matched both her interests and professional goals!

**“Though challenging, I loved Qualitative Research because it forced me to dive deep into a specific topic and gave me the experience of completing an entire study. I feel that this class will be foundational to every other project I tackle in this program, in future academic endeavors, and in the workplace. Every organization needs more data-based information and data-based decision making!”**

Outside of her academics, Erin runs a middle school youth group program, enjoys camping with family, antiquing, listening to true crime podcasts, and driving her daughter to all of her activities! Congratulations, Erin!



## March 2025

### Abigail Malanchuk

Abigail Malanchuk is the Leadership Programs March Student of the Month!

Abigail is a freshman from Mulvane, Ks. She is currently majoring in Nursing while also pursuing a certificate in Leadership Studies! Abigail is also a FHSU cheerleader and a Rudd Scholar. She has been passionate about leadership for a long time and held many leadership roles throughout her past schooling. Using the leadership skills she acquires here at FHSU, she hopes to effectively stand up for patients and advocate for patient rights.

**"I have really enjoyed my Introduction to Leadership Behavior class, because it involves many psychological and social concepts that come into play when trying to lead."**

Outside of class Abigail loves to read, write, watch movies, and anything to do with athletics! Congratulations, Abigail!



## April 2025

### Keira Buchholz

Keira Buchholz is one of the Leadership Programs April Students of the Month!

Keira is a first-time freshman from Cimarron, KS! She is currently majoring and Medical Diagnostic Imaging and is currently pursuing a leadership studies certificate to pair with her degree! Keira was very active in high school, leading several clubs and organizing projects. During her time in high school, she developed an appreciation and passion for leadership. The leadership program at FHSU inspired her to take an initiative and immerse herself in the course work.

**"Both my Discovering Leadership and Introduction to Leadership Behaviors classes have helped me to take skills I already possess and built upon them to create my own leadership brand. I hope that these developed skills allow me to lead others throughout my career and future."**

Outside of classes, Keira is involved in several Christian young adult groups. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, outdoor activity, working out, reading, and listening to music! Congratulations, Keira!

### Zawadi Colbert

Zawadi Colbert is one of the Leadership Programs April Students of the Month!

Zawadi is an online student originally from Albany, Georgia. He is currently living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and in his senior year here at FHSU, working towards a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership. Zawadi stays involved in his local community through the CARE community at a Hilton Hotel & Resorts property. This property partners with local charities on initiatives like donation drives, guest engagement programs, and volunteer opportunities. Zawadi decided to join the Leadership programs to bring a non-traditional student perspective to the table. Since working in the Food and Beverage management within the hospitality industry, he has learned how important strong leadership really is. Zawadi decided to major in Organizational Leadership to grow, to lead more effectively, and to help build teams that work with intention.

**“My favorite leadership class that I have taken is LRDS 310 with Professor Kathy Nordyke because it gave me the chance to take something I was passionate about and actually put it into action. In LRDS 310, I was able to identify a real issue in the community like food insecurity and work directly with a local organization to create and carry out a plan to help address it. It was hands-on, collaborative, and pushed me to think creatively and strategically. I also learned a lot about myself as a leader through the process. This class really brought together everything we had been learning and showed me what it means to be a citizen leader.”**

Outside of school, Zawadi is very passionate about traveling and cooking. He loves exploring new places, experiencing new cultures, and experimenting in the kitchen! Congratulations, Zawadi!



## September 2025

### Sarah Knight

Sarah Knight is one of the online Leadership Programs September Students of the Month!

Sarah is an American native born in Colorado and raised in Minnesota, but currently residing in France in the department of Haute Savoie. She is currently in her first year of the FHSU Online Program and working towards her MPS in Organizational Leadership. Sarah joined the leadership programs to expand the depth of her understanding of leadership through the course content, research, guidance from professor, as well as learning from the experience and her peers. After completing her MPS, Sarah plans to become a certified leadership coach and consultant to support individuals, groups, and organizations with leadership development. Sarah is very active in her community where she supports her children's elementary school, reads to classrooms in English, donates supplies, and served meals.

**“For my purposes, a broad exposure to many areas within the field of leadership is important. So far, each course has been a tremendously valuable step along that journey. *Theoretical Foundations in Leadership* challenged me to critically examine major milestones within the evolution of leadership, contemplate modern trends and identify gaps in literature. *Organizational Inquiry* challenged me to question philosophical assumptions about leadership and exposed me to new concepts and methods in applied research including statistical analysis. These fresh perspectives on leadership will guide me in this program and in my profession.”**

Outside of school and serving her community, Sarah enjoys being in the great outdoors, exercise and fitness, home improvements, traveling, and being an awesome mom.

Congratulations, Sarah!

### Jessica Vsetcka

Jessica Vsetcka is one of the Online Leadership Programs September Students of the Month!

Jessica is a senior from Great Bend, KS currently wrapping up her Bachelor of General

Studies with concentrations in leadership and business. She first joined the Leadership Programs in her freshman year. After nearly 20 years away from school, Jessica returned as a non-traditional student to complete a bachelor's degree for both personal and professional growth. As a full-time worker, she realized that even if she never serves in a formal leadership position, leadership can take many different forms. The leadership classes have given Jessica the opportunity to become a better person, stronger employee, and a more effective leader. In this chapter of her life, Jessica is very active in supporting any teams or activities that her children participate in, as well as the many activities of her friends and family.

**“Each leadership class I have taken has resonated with me in one way or another. Intro to Leadership set the tone for future classes such as Team Dynamics and Intro/Adv Leadership Behaviors, which have been helpful in enhancing those skills that produce a stronger employee and more effective leader. Women in Leadership and Principles of Civic Leadership are two personal favorites because of its historical and sociological roots. History and Sociology are two of my favorite subjects, and both are rooted in so many other disciplines. The historical roots of women leaders and the injustices women have faced over the years along with other historical and modern social injustices is something that I have a personal interest in. It leaves me thirsty for learning more and becoming more involved in the call for action.”**

Outside of her academics, Jessica can usually be found cheering her children on from the sidelines, reading a good book, and visiting food truck and breweries with her husband. Congratulations, Jessica!

### **Jayden Durr**

Jayden Durr is one of the Leadership Programs September Students of the Month!

Congratulations, Jayden!

### **Cooper Lindenmeyer**

Cooper Lindenmeyer is one of the Leadership Programs September Students of the Month!

Cooper is a freshman from Hays, Kansas. He is an on-campus student who is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and is considering pursuing a master's in organizational leadership as well. His mother was a leadership major and played

a big role in helping him get involved in the program. He enjoys the interactive aspect of his courses; he is constantly involved in discussion and group work. He believes that this style of teaching helps him to think outside of the box and be more creative. Cooper stays very involved on campus, participating in a wide range of organizations. He is currently a member of Catholic Tigers, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and intramural sports.

**“My favorite leadership class so far is the Leadership Concepts course I am in now. Since I am only in two classes and it is my first semester, I have not been able to experience many of the other courses yet. I love the discussion aspect of the class and how it does not feel like a lecture most days”**

In his free time Cooper enjoys outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, watching and playing sports, and anything that involves exercise. Congratulations, Cooper!

## **Bosen Cui**

Bosen Cui is the International Leadership Programs September Student of the Month!

Bosen is a junior from Anshan, Liaoning Province, China. He is a student from our international partnership with Shenyang Normal University and is currently pursuing a major in Leadership and completing his Leadership Studies Certificate. Bosen wants to continue building skills that prepare him to lead in global and professional contexts, specifically in field related to business and finance. Bosen has been very active during his college career. He is a member of the College of International Business and Volunteer Association of Shenyang Normal University. He has also been a teacher's assistant for the international teachers at the College of International Business, as well as participated in internships with China Construction Bank. These opportunities have helped Bosen better understand teamwork, leadership, cross-cultural communication, and professional responsibility. Bosen Joined the leadership programs to challenge and grow his leadership skills. From his internship, noticed the importance of leadership, teamwork, and communication are in a professional setting.

**“My favorite class so far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. As one of my core Leadership courses, it gave me a good overall understanding of the field. It also helped me build a strong foundation in leadership and made me think more about my own strengths and weaknesses. I especially enjoyed the discussions and projects because they gave me the chance to practice leadership in real**

**situations and become more confident.”**

In his free time, Bosen enjoys photography, exploring cafes and shops, hiking, and playing sports like table tennis and basketball. He enjoys anime, listening to Pop and ACG music, and trying new bubble tea and coffee drinks! Congratulations, Bosen!



## October 2025

### Emma Hardin

Emma Hardin is one of the Online Leadership Programs October Students of the Month!

Emma Hardin is a Junior from Pendleton, Indiana. She is a student on Fort Hays State University's online learning platforms, working towards a major in Music with a minor in Leadership Studies. Emma stays very involved in her community by singing with her church choir. She also helps choreograph (and set up) for the Pendleton Heights Show Choirs every January. In her free time when she's not helping with choir, Emma enjoys baking with her mom as part of their business "Just Roll With It". Emma joined the leadership programs because she is a teacher and believes that her leadership skills can always be improved. She wants to be the best teacher/leader possible which means constant self-evaluation and always trying to better herself.

**“ I've really been enjoying my leadership behaviors (302) class this semester. It is helping me realize what kind of leader I am currently and what kind of leader I want to be as I develop my skills more.”**

Congratulations, Emma!

### Zachary Mayo

Zachary Mayo is the Leadership Programs October Student of the Month!

Zachary is a sophomore from Monument, Colorado. He is currently working towards a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Management and a Minor in Leadership Studies. Zachary is apart of Fort Hays National Society for Leadership and Success, FHSU Catholic Bible Study, and FHSU intramurals. He first got involved in the Leadership Programs because he thinks that the classes complement any career someone might want to pursue.

He says that he enjoys every leadership class that he has been a part of.

**” My favorite class so far is LDRS 302- Introduction to Leadership Behavior. Every topic we have gone through in the class gives great information that will help anyone in their future career. I feel everything we have learned is relevant and extremely helpful!”**

Outside of his schoolwork in the leadership programs and the student organizations that he’s a part of, Zachary likes to workout, hike, fish, and go snowboarding. Congratulations, Zachary!

### **Harold Dichoso**

Zachary Mayo is one of the Online Leadership Programs October Student of the Month!

Harold Dichoso is an online graduate student from San Francisco Bay Area. He is currently working towards a Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Organizational Leadership. Harold serves his community in many ways, including his role as the Young Leaders Program Manager at California Forward—a non-profit organization focused on building a resilient and inclusive California economy through regional development. He also supports local governments and organizations on workforce development and youth programming. Harold chose to get involved with the Leadership Programs to deepen his understanding of leadership theory and practice to be more effective in his role developing future leaders. This year with the Leadership Programs has been a journey of understanding his own strengths and discovering areas of growth.

**“These past ten weeks have been really incredible. The professors are exceptionally knowledgeable and supportive. The content has also challenged me to think critically about leadership holistically instead of just accepting what’s already out there.**

**My favorite module was on Complexity Leadership and Adaptive Leadership. Learning the difference between technical problems that have known solutions versus adaptive challenges that require people to actually change and experiment has completely shifted how I approach my work altogether. I have been fortunate to have work experiences that help me contextualize everything I am learning now, and each time I read text or watch a lecture, light bulbs go off where I’m able to make these crucial connections.**

**This is something that I am bringing back across all of my programs so that we’re able to**

**think more creatively about how to approach challenges and what tools or mindsets we need to develop to be successful together. The course helped me realize that my job isn't to have all the answers but to set up environments where people feel empowered to grow and step into leadership roles naturally."**

Outside of his work and dedication to community, Harold enjoys creating art through music, videography, and graphic design. He is also into strength training and focusing on turning comfort food into healthy food. He has also just been recently engaged, Congratulations Harold!



## November

### Jenna Schlyer

Jenna Schlyer is the Online Leadership Programs November Student of the Month!

Jenna Schlyer, a Hays native, is currently in her junior year here at FHSU. She is working towards her major in Applied Communications, while also pursuing a minor in both Psychology and Leadership. Jenna is currently a VIP Ambassador for FHSU where she helps serve President, Dr. Tisa mason and attends various events to represent the university. She also works at the Center for Student Success on campus, where she tutors fellow students. Jenna decided to join the leadership programs after her time with the L3: Live, Learn, Lead community her freshman year. She realized how much leadership can grow her skills and become applicable to her everyday life. With this experience and the input of several peers who had been through the leadership program, Jenna decided to continue in her leadership journey.

**"My favorite leadership course so far at FHSU has been LDRS 310. I loved the opportunity to apply my leadership skills in a hands-on project and to see how much I grew through the experience. My team raised over \$5,000 and helped First Call for Help profit more than \$2,000 from the event to support families in need. Seeing the hard work made a real impact, especially in the Hays community where I grew up, was incredibly meaningful. I've enjoyed carrying those same leadership skills into every area of my life, and I look forward to continuing to grow and lead as a Tiger!"**

When she's not working on campus or in class, Jenna is a dance mentor at Styles Dance

Centre, where she works with and choreographs for students ages 3-18. She also loves to travel and spend time with friends! Congratulations, Jenna!

### **Kiera Dealy**

Kiera Dealy is the Leadership Programs November Student of the Month!

Kiera Dealy is a freshman from Hays, KS. She is currently majoring in Business management with a focus on HR and also working towards a leadership certificate. On campus she is currently involved in the Clarinet Choir and the Leadership VALUE program. She also plans on joining the Society for Human Resource Management as she continues to explore her major. Kiera joined the Leadership program due to her previous leadership roles throughout high school. She knew she had room to grow and felt like joining the program was the next step in strengthening her leadership skills.

**“I’ve only taken Discovering Leadership so far, but it has been a great starting point. It introduced me to different leadership ideas and made me think more about my strengths, habits, and the way I interact with others. It gave me a solid foundation, and I’m looking forward to building on it in future courses.”**

Outside of class and clubs, Kiera loves baking spending time with friends, and catching up on her favorite shows. Congratulations, Kiera!