

**University Achievement  
Award**

Logan Hight

Anika Krieger

Eric Ryan

**University Award for  
Outstanding Scholar**

Brianna Freshwater

**Seniors:**

Aisha Aslam (2023)

Taryn Beard

Anna Beckley

Blake Gebhardt (2023)

Minseo Kim

Mason Morland

Juliana Neniell

Zoe Roberts

Angelica Sanchez

Veronica Tanner

Seth Villa

Saifiyah Zaki

**Juniors:**

Arman Ahmed

Hala Arnouk

Evangeline Bulick

Max Busha

Brianna Freshwater

Jacob Garza

Fiona Graybill

Logan Hight

Trevor Isaac

Oghenesuvwe Kokoricha

Anika Krieger

Daniel Kulti

Andrew McClure

Nadia Mustafa

Nikolas Powers

Kathryn Prappas

Alexandra Pugh

Eric Ryan

Anna Weith

Avery Zolfaghari

**Sophomore:**  
Stephanie Ciarochi

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## Robert Stewart Hyer Society 21 April 2024

### Awardees:

#### University Achievement Award

**Logan Hight** is a Junior from Bedford, Texas. He is a Computer Science major with a concentration in Software Engineering. He is also part of Lyle's Accelerated Pathways program and is working towards a Master's degree in Software Engineering. He works as a Teaching Assistant for Discrete Computational Structures and is a member of the Computer Science Student Advisory Board. After graduating with his Master's degree, he plans on attending law school and hopes to pursue a career as a corporate attorney.

**Anika Krieger** is a junior pursuing a triple major in Human Rights on a Public Policy track, Creative Computing, and Religious Studies with a minor in International Studies. Actively involved in campus life, Anika currently demonstrates her commitment to SMU's community through her current roles as an intern at the Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility, as the founder and President of a non-profit called First Vote, as Vice President of Expansion and Campus Relations for Prevent & Protect, and as the Student Senate Scholarship Committee Chair. She has been appointed as a Cultivate Leadership Think Tank fellow, a Caswell Leadership fellow, a Dedman College Senator, and is a member of over ten organizations on campus including Mortar Board, Phi Alpha Delta, the University Honors Program, Chi Omega, and the Human Rights Council. She has received the Provost Scholarship Award, the National Chi Omega Helping Hands Award, the Iota Alpha Academic Excellence Award, the Chi Omega Endowed

Scholarship Award, Peggy R & Constance Harrison Scholar Award, and the Honor Roll Award. Anika is a future leader dedicated to mobilizing communities and affecting tangible change at the intersection of policy and social justice, specifically as it relates to K-12 public education policy. This summer, she will be conducting human rights-oriented research in Peru and teaching inner-city students in Washington, DC.

**Eric Ryan** is majoring in finance through the EnCap and LCM Alternative Asset Management Program (ALTS) with a double minor in data science and advertising. Outside the classroom, he serves as the Treasurer of SMU Speech and Debate and the Vice President of SMU Mock Trial. Last year, Eric Ryan was a silver medalist (2nd Place Debate Speaker) at the World Speech and Debate Championships in Tokyo, Japan. He was also acknowledged as the highest-ranking witness at the 2023 Vanderbilt National Mock Trial Invitational and as the 2021 Novice National Champion Debate Speaker by the International Public Debate Association. Eric is currently pursuing a career in banking as an incoming Summer Analyst with J.P. Morgan Securities in Boston, Massachusetts.

## University Award for Outstanding Scholar

**Brianna Freshwater** is an aspiring social scientist majoring in sociology and anthropology with a minor in religious studies. Throughout her time at SMU, she has had the pleasure of being a President's Scholar, McNair Scholar, and Engaged Learning Fellow, which funds her research dedicated to understanding and improving Advanced Placement participation in minority white schools. When she is not in class or working on her research project, she works as a research assistant at the Simmons School of Education & Human Development, studying university decisions and their impacts on students, faculty, and communities. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a PhD in sociology, studying and suggesting policies to help reduce the impact of generational poverty in rural areas.

## Seniors:

**Aisha Aslam** is a Senior at SMU. She is double majoring in Economics with Financial Applications and Data Science with minors in International Studies, Business, Math, and History. At SMU, she is part of the University Honors Program and the President's Scholar program. She was also inducted into the International Honor Society in Economics and Phi Beta Kappa as a Junior. Over the past four years, Aisha has studied abroad in France, Spain, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Ireland, and Peru. Following graduation, she will work in the management consulting industry and eventually return to school for an MBA. Aisha was inducted into the Hyer Society in 2023, but was unable to attend the ceremony because of a class trip to Peru. We are glad she was able to join us this year!

**Taryn Beard** is a senior music education transfer student from Houston, Tx. She enjoys singing in the Sanctuary Choir at Wilshire Baptist church and teaching around the community. After she graduates, Taryn plans to become an elementary music teacher at a Title I school in the Houston area.

**Anna Beckley** is a senior at SMU majoring in English. She currently works at the Deason Center at Dedman Law conducting research for federal criminal justice advocacy. She is an independent journalist and writes for the Daily Caller news publication. As an aspiring attorney, Anna is interested in pursuing a career in public policy reform.

**Blake Gebhardt** is a senior from Valencia, California, majoring in Computer Science, Data Science, and International Studies and

minoring in Russian Area Studies and History. He currently serves as the President of the Society for Russian Studies, a Student Ambassador for the Office of Admissions, a Peruna Handler for SMU Spirit, and an Equipment Manager for SMU Football. He is an Eagle Scout, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi, and a recipient of the Philip H. Solomon Award in Russian. He enjoys swimming, watching the Buffalo Bills, and traveling abroad. After graduation, he plans to work as a software engineer or as a federal law enforcement agent. Blake was inducted into the Hyer Society in 2023, but was unable to attend the ceremony because of a class trip to Peru. We are glad he was able to join us this year!

**Minseo Kim** has had the incredible honor of studying at SMU, majoring in Political Science, Public Policy, Economics, and International Studies and minoring in Chinese, all while leading amazing organizations and representing her communities, as the founder and President of the Chinese Language Club, the re-elected President of the East Asian Student Association, and the Asian Pacific Islander Senator. She has been able to learn about politics, law, business, and leadership here at SMU. Now, it is time for her to put all she has learned to good use at her job as a Legal and Compliance Associate at AlphaSights for her gap year, after which she intends to pursue her Juris Doctorate. She thanks peers, faculty, and staff for making it possible for her to shoot for the stars with her education and career.

**Mason Morland** is currently the COO of a MedTech start-up called SteadiSpoon which has raised \$120k in non-dilutive funding. He played starting outside center for the SMU Rugby Club when they won the club state title. This summer, he will begin his career in Dallas at Weaver as a Valuation Services Associate.

**Juliana Neniell** is currently a senior triple-majoring in Chemistry, Biology, and Philosophy, with a minor in Neuroscience. She has been a Provost Scholar, Discovery Scholar, Hamilton Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa member, University Honors Program member, AED Pre-Health Honor Society member, and Teaching Assistant in both the Philosophy and Biology Departments. Additionally, she is involved as an Undergraduate Research Assistant in Dr. Buynak's organic synthesis lab--focused on synthesizing atypical antibiotics--and the Anxiety and Depression Research Center here at SMU. Outside of formal education, she enjoys engaging in philosophy and has served as an assistant editorial board member for an international undergraduate philosophy journal.

**Zoe Roberts** is a senior studying Economics, Public Policy, and Human Rights with minors in History, Dance Performance, and Political Science. She is a University Honors Student, a Dedman College Scholar, a Deason Scholar, and a member of the Tau Sigma and Phi Beta Kappa honor societies. After graduation, Zoe will be taking a gap year working in management consulting, after which she plans to attend law school and pursue a career in criminal justice. In her free time she enjoys working in the SMU admissions office and the Deason Criminal Justice Center, volunteering at her church, and stopping to pet any dogs being walked on campus.

**Angelica Sanchez** is graduating with honors this May with degrees in Health and Society and Biological Sciences. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society and the Lambda Alpha Honor Society of Anthropology. During her time at SMU, she has been involved with leading medical anthropology research, volunteering with Dallas high school students through Mustang Heroes, and she served as the Vice president of SMU Earth First, SMU's



environmental club. After graduation, Angelica will be working towards pursuing a career in medicine.

**Veronica Tanner** is a senior from Scottsdale, Arizona majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Chinese. She is a Provost Scholar, Discovery Scholar, Embrey Scholar, and in the University Honors Program. At SMU, she has worked on a variety of research projects at the Darwin Deason Institute for Cybersecurity over the past three years. Last summer, she interned as a software engineer at Palantir Technologies in New York City and will be returning to work there full-time after graduation.

**Seth Villa** will graduate with a B.A. in English with a Creative Writing Specialization and a Minor in Medieval Studies. He is a Provost Scholar, Dedman Scholar, and member of the University Honors Program. In his senior year, he was accepted into Phi Beta Kapa and was awarded the Lon Tinkle Award for Excellence in Creative Writing.

**Saifiyah Zaki** is a senior from Plano, TX pursuing dual degrees in Marketing and Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience. In her time at SMU, she has been most engaged in academic research through various neuroscience labs under the psychology department, and while serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Undergraduate Research. She has also served as Chairwoman for the Women's Symposium Planning Committee, as Audience Engagement Editor for the Daily Campus, as a Hamilton Undergraduate Research Scholar, and as a member of the Bridwell-Armentrout Scholar reading groups. Following graduation, Saifiyah will be working as a Marketing Specialist at Catalyze Partners, an alternative investment firm in Dallas.

## Juniors:

**Arman Ahmed** is a junior from Plano, Texas in the University Honors Program. He is majoring in finance, public policy and economics with a minor in history. While at SMU, he studied abroad through the SMU-in-Oxford program on a Richter Fellowship and is currently in the Alternative Asset Management Program. He is interning this summer with the Teacher Retirement System of Texas in the public markets division and hopes to either work in asset management or policy formation.

**Hala Arnouk** is majoring in political science and finance with minors in public policy & international affairs, Arabic, and history. She is a Tower and a pre-law scholar and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Beta Kappa. She is also research assistant for the Naval War College and an SMU student ambassador. Her post-graduation plans include attending law school.

**Evangeline Bulick** is a junior completing a double major in English and French and double minor in Advertising and European Area Studies. She's Vice President of the SMU Debate Team and recently started writing for the Daily Campus. She looks forward to her internship this summer and finishing her last year at SMU with her friends and the support of her family!

**Max Busha** is a junior from Dallas, TX; he is majoring in Data Science and Computer Science with concentrations in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning while minoring in Human Rights. Max is part of the University Honors Program and is pursuing a master's degree in data engineering with his other degrees. In addition to his academics, he enjoys being actively involved on

campus and is both a second-year Residential Assistant and a second-year Caswell Fellow- a program through which he has started several sustainability projects on campus before joining the executive board of the SMU Earth First student organization, in order to continue his efforts surrounding sustainability and environmentalism. After graduation, he intends to pursue a career in computer science and data analytics.

### **Brianna Freshwater**

**Jacob Garza** is a triple major, studying Political Science, Economics, and Public policy with a Minor in Law and Legal Reasoning on the Pre-Law track. He was awarded with the Dallas County Mustang Scholarship Award and is a Rotunda Scholar. With his interest and experience in the Dedman College Student Advisory Board and the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, he seeks to go to Law School after graduating SMU and work with underrepresented communities, specifically in South Dallas. The first step he is taking to achieve these goals is interning in Washington D.C this summer and taking a class at George Washington University.

**Fiona Graybill** is a junior from Dallas majoring in English and World Languages, with specializations in both Arabic and Russian. She is the 2023 recipient of the Philip H. Solomon Award in Arabic and is a member of the University Honors Program. Fiona is a member of the Libraries Student Advisory Board, where she has served for two academic years. Outside of the classroom, Fiona tutors in Arabic and works at the SMU Bookstore. This summer, she will continue her Arabic studies, which she also plans to do after graduation before applying to graduate school.

## **Logan Hight**

**Trevor Isaac** is a Junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is a part of the Mustang Rocketry club which will be launching a rocket for a competition this summer. He likes to play and watch basketball and watch movies.

**Oghenesuvwe "Suvwe" Kokoricha** is a triple-major in International Studies, Human Rights, and Economics with a minor in French. Outside of classes, she serves as Co-President of the African Students Association, an ex-officio member of the Vice President of Student Affairs' Student Advisory Board, and a Connect mentor. After graduation, her next step is a Masters in Development Studies at an international university.

## **Anika Krieger**

**Daniel Kulti** is majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Business. He is a Dedman College Scholar and enjoys serving as a Resident Assistant in Crum Commons. Daniel also serves as an Undergraduate Research Assistant in Lippert Lab. Outside of class, Daniel serves as an ambassador for the MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association). He is also pursuing a career in acting, where he has worked on the sets of Anastasia and Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales. After graduation, Daniel plans to attend medical school.

**Andrew McClure** is a junior from Lubbock, Texas double majoring in Finance and Philosophy and minoring in Latin and Classical Studies. During his time at the Cox school of Business, he has earned membership in the EnCap & LCM Alternative Assets

Management (ALTS) Program through which he has developed a strong interest in the history of finance and financial analysis. Beyond finance, Andrew has studied a variety of topics in philosophy, been a member of the Consult Your Community chapter at SMU, worked at SMU Dedman's Deason Center for Criminal Justice Reform, and acted as a teaching assistant. Recently he has accepted a summer offer to work for BMO Capital Markets in the middle markets M&A investment banking group and he aims to pursue a career in high finance after graduation.

**Nadia Mustafa** is a junior from Southlake, TX. She is majoring in Chemistry and minoring in business. At SMU she is involved in Women in Science and Engineering, Muslim Student Association, and Delta Gamma. She is also a member of the University Honors Program and is a Dedman College Scholar. Outside of school, she enjoys volunteering at Children's Hospital. After graduation, Nadia plans on attending medical school.

**Nikolas Powers** was born in Reno, Nevada, and he is studying Applied Mathematics and Economics. He is currently the Vice President of Executive Affairs for the SMU Interfraternity Council, and is an active member of Beta Upsilon Chi. He plans on attending law school, and is going to intern at the House of Representatives this summer.

**Kathryn Prappas** is a junior from Houston, Texas double majoring in Spanish and Business Analytics and Supply Chain Management, with a minor in History. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma, Mortar Board, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, and the University Honors Program. Kathryn studied

abroad in Madrid, Spain in the summer following her freshman year, and she currently serves as a mentor for the Hilltop Scholars Program and the Director of Finance for Student Foundation. This summer, Kathryn will work as a Supply Chain intern at American Airlines, and after graduation she hopes to work as a supply chain analyst and later attend graduate school to earn her MBA.

**Alexandra Pugh** is majoring in Political Science and Music with a minor in Public Policy and International Affairs. She is the current Tower Scholar Fellow at the George W. Bush Institute and an incoming intern on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Alexandra served as the head drum major of Santa Clara Vanguard Drum & Bugle Corps, leading the corps on national tour, and she is a recipient of the Jim Jones Leadership Award, the highest honor a drum major can receive. Alexandra is also the founder and lead instructor of Downbeats, a summer program designed to engage disadvantaged middle school students in music. On the hilltop, Alexandra is a flutist in the Meadows Symphony Orchestra and Meadows Wind Ensemble as well as a voting member of the SMU Writing Board.

### **Eric Ryan**

**Anna Weith** is a junior Pre-PA honors student majoring in Applied Physiology and Health Management, with a minor in Biological Sciences. Currently, she serves as a research assistant for two PAs at UTSW, shadowing them weekly and focusing her research on skin cancer in transplant patients. Additionally, Anna recently earned her Clinical Medical Assistant Certification and works at Foundation Pain and Spine, along with PRN shifts at Methodist

Hospital. She actively engages with her community through weekly volunteering at Sunrise Senior Living and serving as a Student Mentor for elementary students, assisting them with homework and chores. Beyond her academic pursuits, Anna plans to obtain her personal training certification in May, driven by her passion for weight training. Following her graduation in December, Anna aims to work full-time as a Clinical Medical Assistant and continue her research assistant role until she begins PA school.

**Avery Zolfaghari** is a junior from San Diego with a double major in Economics and Marketing and a minor in English. In addition to the Hyer Society, she is a recipient of the Distinguished Scholar scholarship, a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma business honors society, and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society. She is involved on campus as an admissions tour guide, a writer for the student-run magazine SMU Look, and a leader in multiple campus clubs. This summer, she will be interning for KPMG in their consulting and advisory sector in Chicago. She is thankful for this opportunity to be here!

**Sophomore:**

**Stephanie Ciarochi** is a former Team USA figure skater who has earned two national titles and competed internationally for the United States. After retiring from the sport, Stephanie enrolled at SMU to pursue a degree in finance and entrepreneurship with a minor in Italian, as she aspires to achieve Italian fluency and a career in investment banking. In addition to her studies, she currently serves on the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League's Assembly Board after her debutante debut in 2023. She is also the social chair of the Italian Club at SMU, a founding member of SMU's newest business fraternity, Phi Chi Theta, and enjoys writing poems and stories in her free time.