

# UNIVERSITY HONORS SPOTLIGHT

#FullerSalukis



Saluki Alumni Plaza  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Martice ARRINGTON	2
Kallie COX	3
Emma LANLEY	4
Alyssa ROIMISER	5
Nicolas TORRES	6
Celeste DRISCOLL	7
Yancy ALVARENGA	8
Carlos Daniel ZARATE	9
Peyton MORRIS	10
Allena HEALY	11
Veronica CAHILL	12
Danielle COOKSON	13
Emily DURAN	14
David HERNANDEZ	15
Makayla SMOTHERS	16



## **MARTICE ARRINGTON**

Communication Studies  
Journalism

Martiece Arrington is a senior obtaining his degree in Communication Studies. He is currently the President of the Honors Assembly, a student-led organization built as the embodiment of the University Honors Program.

As the current President, his main focus is ensuring the success of the Assembly while honoring the organization's motto, "We Learn to Lead by Serving."

Over the summer, Martiece was a part of McNair Scholar where he underwent vigorous research by conducting a neo-Aristotelian rhetorical criticism of Barack Obama's 2008 Victory Speech.

With impressive academic knowledge and experience, he plans to be a public speaker, motivating the youth and help those in need. Keep up the good work Martiece!

(8.24.20)



## **KALLIE COX**

### International Relations

Kallie Coz is a senior majoring in political science with international relations, and journalism. She is passionate about writing and telling people's stories.

Kallie is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Egyptian, and her goal is to help serve and inform the Carbondale community. In the upcoming editions of Daily Egyptian, they hope to cover the 2020 election, the Black Lives Matter movement in Southern Illinois, and around the state. She wants to keep folks up to date on any news regarding the pandemic.

"If anyone is interested, the DE is hiring reporters, designers, and photographers," Kallie said.

Other than keeping us well informed, she spends her spare time writing horror and science fiction stories.

Kallie is involved in the SIU scuba club and the climbing club!

Her goal after graduation is to become a reporter. And she wants everyone to wear a mask -- we couldn't agree more Kallie!

(8.31.20)



## **EMMA LANLEY**

Psychology

Chemistry & East Asia Civilization

Emma Lanley is a senior studying Physiology with minors in Chemistry and East Asia Civilization. She is the Vice President of Philanthropy for Alpha Gamma Delta- Beta Eta chapter on campus. And we are so proud of her philanthropy work!

For the past three years, Emma has been in Dr. Rader's microbiology research lab, and she has been involved with Partners in Reading for the Carbondale Public Library. Emma also has been involved with LeBonheur Children's Hospital as a volunteer in Memphis, TN.

Over the summer and past few weeks of school, she has sewn and donated over 220 masks to friends, family, and SIU faculty. And she's been preparing a batch of masks for the SIU health center as well.

Currently, she is volunteering as a COVID-19 screener at SIU health center and a resident assistant for SIU housing. And she's applying for medical school next year!

(9.8.20)



## **NICOLAS TORRES**

Physiology/ Chemistry

Nicolas Torres is a sophomore studying physiology and chemistry. He is currently a member of Saluki Science Ambassadors and an officer for the Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity on campus.

As a hobby, he likes playing intramurals with his fraternity in the Fall and Spring. Also, he enjoys volunteering at local events such as the annual For Kids' Sake 5K run and at the animal shelter.

He is passionate about microbiology and physiology of the human body.

Having family members impacted and battling cancer, Nicolas aspires to be an oncologist, to help others who are going through the same adversity.

(9.21.20)



## **CELESTE DRISCOLL**

Physiology  
Chemistry

Celeste Driscoll is a freshman majoring in Physiology with a minor in Chemistry, she is on the pre-med track. Celeste is currently involved in InterVarsity on campus and looking forward to joining more RSOs and communities at SIU.

She is passionate about volunteering and excited to help out with the community here in Carbondale. Her family is her motivation to do what she loves and they are her number one fans!

(9.28.20)



## **YANCY ALVARENGA**

Criminology & Criminal Justice/  
Psychology

Yancy Alvarenga is a junior, she double majors in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Psychology. One of her proudest achievements is maintaining her Dean's list status and receiving the Dean's Scholarship. Previously, she worked for the SIU Foundation which taught her a lot about nonprofit and fundraising to support current Salukis who need financial aid.

During high school, Yancy managed to study abroad in Latvia and her last trip to China made her realize her passion for traveling and experiencing new cultures. She participated in a three-week program with the University of Texas at Austin and her next goal is to participate in another study abroad program in Spain.

Yancy's parents are her biggest inspirations, seeing her parents' perseverance to provide a good life for their family motivates her. And she loves the Vampire Academy series!

(10.05.20)





## **CARLOS DANIEL ZARATE**

Linguistics

Physician Assistant Studies

Carlos Daniel Zarate is a third-year Linguistics major in the pre-professional health track in Physician Assistant Studies. He goes by "Danny" and he is a first-generation Guatemalan student. He is originally from San Fernando Valley, located in the city of Los Angeles.

Danny is passionate about giving back to the community, he has volunteered for Carbondale Springs, African American Museum of Southern Illinois, and have been a translator for multiple new student orientations and open houses for parents who only speak Spanish.

He is a member of Lambda Theta Phi Latin and through the fraternity, he was awarded a plaque for outstanding academic achievement across the Midwest in the Spring of his freshmen year!

He interned at Unity Point Consolidated school district 140 and worked with ESL students that needed extra language support. Currently, he strives to research new unorthodox rehabilitation methods for assisting in recovering drug addicts.

After he graduates from SIU, his goal is to attend a high-ranking PA school and eventually head home to LA so he can work for Cedar Sinai Medical Center or at the UCLA Medical Center. Fun fact, Danny DJ around Carbondale and go by "Flix."

(10.12.20)



## **PAYTON MORRIS**

German Education

Payton Morris is a junior majoring in German Education with an English Endorsement. She has been active in SIU's German club since the fall of 2018 and currently serves as Vice President of the RSO. She enjoys volunteering at Dayempur Farm, especially during the fall season. She is very interested in sustainable living and Primatology. Her passion includes the Black Lives Matter movement and institutions like the Human Rights Campaign. Her biggest motivator is her partner, Anna, who continuously inspires her to pursue challenging things in life. Payton's ambition is to become an educator and make education more accessible to everyone while having fun doing it. She encourages everyone to get registered and go vote! And fun fact, her favorite film is The Sixth Sense.

(10.19.20)



## **ALLENA HEALY**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Healthcare Management

Allena Healy is a junior in the diagnostic medical sonography program with a minor in healthcare management. She became interested in sonography after personal experiences and has since grown to love the field as she continues her learning. She is very grateful for the program at SIU and hopes to continue her education after undergrad.

As a first-generation college student, Allena wants to make her family proud. She is very eager to take advantage of the study abroad opportunities at SIU since she hopes to study in Ireland or Costa Rica.

Allena is involved in the Scanning Salukis RSO, which allows students to learn more about the field of sonography and make connections and build relationships with underclassmen. One of her passions is sports, because of the ability it has to bring people together. Her competitive nature in sports has influenced her motivation to do her best academically as well. Her biggest inspiration is her parents because of their work ethic, and dedication to providing for their family.

She has a golden retriever named Payton after the football player Walter Payton and her favorite movie is The Sandlot.

(10.26.2020)



## **VERONICA CAHILL**

### Radiologic Sciences

Veronica Cahill is a Chicago native and senior studying Radiologic Sciences in MRI/CT. She graduated with her Associate's degree in May, allowing her to work as a frontline X-ray technologist during the pandemic.

When she is not working, she tutors students and cares for displaced pets at Wrightway Animal Shelter. She is currently a proud member of Lambda Nu, a National Honors Society for Radiology students.

Prior to her junior year, she was Vice President of Pause for Paws and raised cancer awareness through Love Your Melon. With her motivation to help others, Veronica excitedly looks forward to jumping into her career in the medical field with a coffee in one hand and a diploma in the other.

(11.02.2020)



## **DANIELLE COOKSON**

Radiologic Sciences MRS/CT

Danielle Cookson is a senior majoring in radiologic sciences, specializing in MRI/CT. She always knew she wanted to be in the medical field and when doing research and job shadowing, she discovered radiology and fell in love. Since then she has been through two sets of clinicals, where she found a passion for interacting with patients and their loved ones.

Danielle is Vice President of the Lambda Nu Honor Society for radiology students. Lambda Nu is a national honor society for radiology and imaging sciences students. They support members by offering tutoring and creating a productive space/community for studying. She is also a member of the Student Leadership Honor Society on campus.

She is committed to giving back to the community by volunteering wherever needed. She has volunteered with her fellow members in Lambda Nu, as well as on her own. One of her favorite places to volunteer is the African American Museum in University Mall, where the owner displays his own family collection as well as commissions others.

She has enjoyed her time at SIU and is sad for it to be coming to an end soon. However, the memories she has made will never be forgotten, nor the professors.

(11.09.2020)



## **EMILY DURAN**

Plant Biology

Environmental Sustainability

Emily Duran is a junior studying Plant Biology and a minor in Environmental Sustainability. She is a member of the SI Bridges program researching the conductive tissue of moss. Her greatest achievement is receiving the Excellence in Biology Award from John A. Logan.

Emily's favorite thing to do is go hiking. She has a love for nature and a passion for plants and mushrooms. One of her biggest inspirations is Paul Stamets, a leading mycologist. His excitement for mushroom research has inspired Emily to go to graduate school for mycology. Her goal is to become a researcher in an area that will have a positive environmental impact.

(11.16.2020)



## **DAVID HERNANDEZ**

Zoology

Theatre & Spanish

David Hernandez is a sophomore majoring in zoology and minoring in theatre and Spanish. Having a passion for wildlife and their evolution since childhood, he is interested in working on Conservation and Population Genetics as well as Phylogenetics of marine animals. He has plans for going to graduate school abroad to do research and earning his Ph.D. in zoology or related fields. Along with research, he also hopes to consult urban development of future sustainable cities.

David volunteers as an undergraduate assistant in Dr. Kamal Ibrahim's population genetics lab. He plans to start his own research project comparing the genetic diversity between populations of captive and wild gazelles. He hopes to also apply the communication and social concepts from studying and working in theatre towards presenting his research in front of audiences and supplement those communication skills through his fluency and study in Spanish.

Joining both his freshman year, David currently serves as the Academic Chair of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Incorporated and will be serving as the recruitment chair of the newly formed Zoology Fraternity, Zeta Theta Omega. He also works with the Project Evaluation team for Engineers Without Borders and is the Safety Officer for the Medieval Combat Club.

One of his inspirations is the multidisciplinary work of renaissance Artist and Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci. His other passions include gaming, travel, and learning about other cultures around the world through their traditions, music, and cuisine. Planning to continue a project that began in Dr. Kapur's Sustainability and the Collective Imagination class, he and two other of his classmates will be working on organizing and performing in an eco-theatre and arts festival on Earth Day this coming semester.

Between all the writing and planning for classes and scholarships, David will be binge-watching shows and documentaries on Netflix and Hulu as well as keeping in touch with his friends near and far.

(11.30.2020)



## **MAKAYLA SMOTHERS**

Exercise Science  
Psychology

Makayla Smothers is a Senior majoring in Exercise Science and minoring in Psychology. She transferred from John A. Logan College to SIU last year. "It has been one of the best decisions I've ever made!" Makayla said.

She has been a part of the University Honors Program, Strong Survivors, the AmeriCorps program, and the Transfer Transition Leader program. She participated in several RSO's such as the Organization of Sports & Exercise Science (OSSES) and the Pre-Health Profession Association (PPA). Makayla has received several awards and scholarships.

"SIU has made such an impact in my life and has helped push me towards my #1 goal of becoming a Physical Therapist."

Recently, Makayla was accepted to the University of Evansville's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program! She is so thankful for her friends, family, the Kinesiology Department at SIU, Strong Survivors Program at SIU, AmeriCorps Program, and the University Honors Program for helping make my dreams a reality  
-- Makayla, it has been an honor for us!

Her goal is to graduate from UE's DPT program and come back to Southern Illinois either working in a Rehabilitation Facility, Cancer Survivor environment, or working as a teacher or volunteer.

Makayla will start her program in May and in three years we will refer her as Dr. Smothers! Her best advice to her peers is "Give it all you got! Life may be hard right now, but you have to remember why you started the journey in the first place."

We are so proud of you Makayla!

(12.07.2020)