

Spring 2017

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Beering Scholar Student Association

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Boilermakers,

Each semester, I marvel at how lucky I am to be receiving the Beering Scholarship at Purdue University, and I think that I've reached the pinnacle of good fortune. Yet each semester, I am amazed once again. These past few months have been no exception. The Beering Scholar Student Association has been blessed with a host of new opportunities in the spring of 2017, enabling us to continue our mission of promoting student leadership, performing community service, and supporting our ever-growing community of Beering Scholars.



In January, we started a faculty mentorship program for our freshmen class. These mentors have proven to be invaluable resources, offering professional advice and even creating research opportunities for our students, as Brian Helfrecht will attest to in the pages to follow. By continuing this program, we hope that every incoming Beering Scholar will have a mentorship spanning their undergraduate career with the professor whose work interests them the most.

We have also been busy with new service projects. In addition to time-honored favorites like making blankets for Riley Hospital for Children and writing cards to Indiana veterans, BSSA members also had a great time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity for the first time.

As always, the BSSA held several social events for current scholars this semester, including weekly wallyball games (volleyball played in a racquetball court) and ice skating with Stamps Scholars. This year also marked the beginning of biweekly "Beering Salons," as Abby Lemert will explain, where scholars have spent Sunday afternoons discussing current events.

In March, we welcomed our newest group of scholarship recipients at our annual New Scholar Day event. In May, we sent our latest group of graduating scholars out into the world or towards their next steps at Purdue. To our graduating scholars, we wish you all the best of luck in your next endeavors. To our new friends, see you in the fall!

Nothing makes me happier than being able to share the accomplishments of the amazing students around me and the opportunities we have been blessed with. In one semester alone, our current scholars have been able to travel the world, participate in world-class research, and even start their own companies because of the Beering Scholarship. Thank you to Dr. Beering and to all our scholarship donors for your continued support. It is your generosity that has made our dreams possible.

Hail Purdue!

Gina Clepper, Class of 2019

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A Time for Service

By Andrew Kaskie, B.S. Biology, May 2019



Community service is a key component that has been engraved in the foundation of the Beering Scholar Student Association and has played a fundamental role in defining who we are as an organization. This spring semester, the BSSA had the privilege of collaborating in several service projects both at Purdue University and in the greater Lafayette community.

In our first event, the Beering Scholars made fleece tie blankets for young patients at Riley Hospital for Children, while sharing in our communal passion for music from the hit Broadway show, Hamilton. Another highlight early on in the semester was designing creative Valentine's Day cards for Indiana veterans.



Later in the season, the scholars commenced a new service project with Habitat for Humanity, an organization dedicated to building homes for communities. Under the warm rays of the morning sun, BSSA worked together to saw wood, hammer nails, and bring the construction of a house in Lafayette one step closer to completion. Scholars also had the pleasure of meeting the future residents of the new home and were inspired by the family's love and appreciation. BSSA is looking forward to returning in the fall to assist in the completion of the project and to see this family move into the home of their dreams.

All in all, these service projects have made for a rewarding spring semester and have allowed the members of this organization to reflect on the impact that service can have in our communities.



New Scholar Day

By Maya Black, B.S. Animal Sciences, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, May 2020
& Noah Franks, B.S. Computer Science, May 2020

Every year, New Scholar Day is a chance for all incoming Beering Scholar finalists to have a personalized visit day here at Purdue. This spring, six of the nine finalists visited campus on March 31st. Based on major or career interest, incoming scholars were matched up with current scholars, who created personalized visit schedules for them. Once again, New Scholar Day was hosted through the Honors College, this time at the newly constructed Honors College and Residences buildings.

In the morning, the incoming scholars and their families arrived on campus to meet current scholars and Honors College staff. To better understand life at Purdue, many visiting students went with current scholars to eat breakfast at the dining courts, while others visited residence halls. Afterwards, the new scholars had special appointments with faculty or deans of their respective colleges to learn more about the curricula.

Throughout the day, the visiting scholars shadowed classes, toured research labs, and visited with various student organizations. Additionally, they heard about the financial details of the Beering Scholarship through a talk hosted by the Division of Financial Aid. The afternoon ended memorably with a private tour of campus for the students and their families while riding on the Boilermaker Special!

Prior to dinner, several Beering and Stamps Scholars presented research posters to showcase undergraduate research at Purdue and explain to new

scholars how to get involved. Dinner was provided by the Honors College in the new Honors Hall room, with speakers such as Dean Rhonda Phillips and Beering Scholar alumna, Beata Strubel. After dinner, the new and current scholars had fun at the CoRec gym, where they played Wallyball ("wall volleyball") and climbed the giant rock wall. They ended the evening at Cary Knight Spot, a favorite late night spot on campus with burgers, subs, and milkshakes.

After a full day of experiencing Purdue, the visiting scholars were ready to hit the hay. Some stayed overnight in residence halls with current scholars to better understand dormitory life. The next day, they woke up early to attend Golden Honors Day at Purdue or travel back home. Once again, New Scholar Day was a tremendous success, with several visiting scholars accepting their Beering Scholarship offers on the same day or shortly after. We look forward to welcoming our new Beering Scholar freshmen in the fall!



GRADUATING SCHOLARS

Hanna Tso

Graduating: B.S. in Biological Engineering

Next Step: Indiana University School of Medicine, Class of 2021

Favorite Purdue Memory: Riding on the Boilermaker Special with the other Beering Scholars to a fall barbeque at Dean Phillips' house

It seems like yesterday that I was doing my first fountain run, and now I will be walking across the stage in Elliott Hall in May to receive a diploma from this world-class university. I am grateful to Purdue and the Beering Scholarship for allowing me to learn more about my career interests, other passions, and ultimately myself.

Outside of my engineering and pre-med classes, I have broadened my Boilermaker experience by studying abroad in Europe and China and by joining the Club Tennis team, the Mortar Board senior honor society and, of course, the Beering Scholar Student Association (BSSA). I am especially proud of the progress that BSSA makes every year and feel privileged to have assisted in shaping its direction. All of my clubs have introduced me to brilliant peers and have challenged me as a leader to always ask how things can be improved. I am grateful for the opportunities they have provided to serve Purdue and the greater West Lafayette community.

Looking back over the past four years, I am amazed by the richness of my experiences and the role that the Beering Scholarship has played during this time. I will be forever grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Beering, the generous donors of this scholarship, my Beering faculty mentor, Dr. David Umulis, and the other current and alumni Beering Scholars. After graduation, I look forward to continuing my Beering journey at the Indiana University School of Medicine at the West Lafayette campus. Come this fall, I may wear cream and crimson, but I will always bleed black and gold. Boiler Up and Hail Purdue!



Marlow Rumreich

Graduating: B.S. in Electrical Engineering

Next Step: M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue

Favorite Purdue Memory: Christmas shopping, sushi, and game night with my roommates

Looking back on these past four years, I can't imagine how different my life would have been without the Beering Scholarship. As a freshman, the benefit of the scholarship seemed obvious—I could attend Purdue University, my dream school, without financial burden. However, this freedom and the support of the many wonderful friends I have made within the Beering scholars gave me so much more. Being a Beering Scholar allowed me to grow as an individual more than I thought possible. I had time to pursue my ambitions to become a researcher in electrical engineering. I gained the confidence to demand change within my department and create an organization to realize that goal. This group, the Women of Electrical and Computer Engineering (WECE) committee, has fostered a positive community of students, faculty, and alumni of Purdue ECE. I was able to expand my worldview by traveling to the other side of the globe to study abroad in Australia. I even learned how to cultivate leadership skills in others while I was President of the BSSA.

Through community service events, meetings, dinners, philosophical discussions, and late-night storytelling, the Beering Scholars have become my second family. As I now look toward the future, I am elated to be staying on at Purdue to earn a Master's in Electrical and Computer Engineering. I have already learned so much from my time here, and I know I am ready for this next challenge. Boiler up!



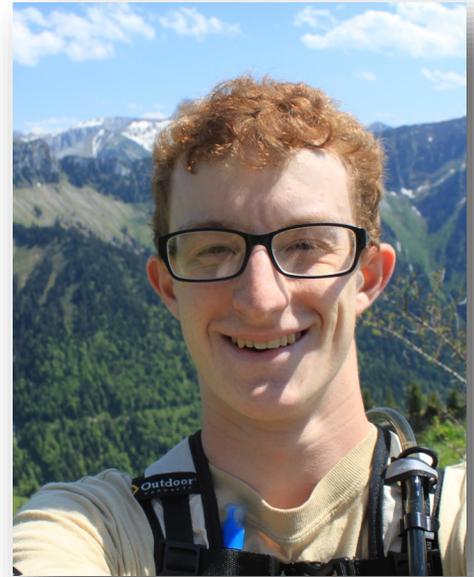
Jason Hawes

Graduating: B.S. in Environmental and Ecological Engineering, minors in Environmental Politics and Policy, Natural Resources and Environmental Science

Next Step: Masters in Ecological Sciences and Engineering at Purdue

Favorite Purdue Memory: Travel, at home and abroad, with peers and friends

Three years ago, I was the first editor of the Beering Newsletter, and I asked graduating seniors to describe their Purdue experience for the inaugural edition. Well, I'd like to publicly apologize to all those seniors I've talked into this over the years - I can confidently say that it's impossible to sum up my Purdue journey in a paragraph. The past four years, which have taken me from Shreve Hall to Stockholm to Santiago, Dominican Republic, have also led me to my passions and my future work. After selecting Environmental and Ecological Engineering as my major, I quickly realized that my work in sustainable international development and global health would be much more than a career - it is my passion and my privilege. Learning about three-dimensional sustainability and placing an emphasis on holistic solutions, I have been taught to engage with all aspects of a challenge and create environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable solutions. In pursuit of this, I will begin my Masters work next year at Purdue as a Chappelle Fellow and Beering Scholar in the Ecological Sciences and Engineering program. Through this interdisciplinary Masters program, I will gain hands on experience in addressing sustainability challenges at the intersection of social science, policy, and design. As an engineer by training, this will be a new and exciting challenge for me! In the long run, I hope to pursue a PhD studying interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable global development and leverage this knowledge through a career in teaching, research, and policy.



Kimberly Rink

Graduating: B.S. in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering

Next Step: M.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University

Favorite Purdue Memory: Climbing to the top of the Swiss Alps on a Purdue Study Abroad Program

When I arrived at Purdue four years ago, I could have never anticipated the immense academic, professional, and personal growth I would eventually achieve. Purdue University has given me amazing opportunities beyond even my wildest dreams. Over the past four years, I have been able to learn advanced material from some of the best aerospace engineering experts across the country, intern at innovative companies that span the aerospace industry, perform breakthrough systems engineering research, represent Purdue Engineering to eager prospective students, and even work with Dr. Buzz Aldrin to develop a sustainable colony on Mars.

The Beering Scholarship has allowed me to seize once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, explore my interests, and help others. One of my passions is travel; thanks to the Beering Scholarship, I have studied abroad in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, and Switzerland. While traveling, I had the pleasure of visiting the European Space Agency headquarters, the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs, Delft Technical University, and several innovative contracting companies that help further man's presence in space. The Beering Scholarship has also given me the freedom to take classes in my interest areas outside of engineering, including art and design, computer science, and Spanish and Latin American culture.

This summer, I will intern at the NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA, where I will be helping design the next planetary exploration mission for NASA's Discovery Program. In the fall, I will return to Purdue to pursue my Master's in Aeronautics and Astronautics with concentrations in Aerospace Systems and Astrodynamics & Space Applications. Purdue University and the Beering Scholarship have already allowed me to live my dream by contributing to the future of deep-space exploration. No words can express my gratitude to the generous donors and the university I love.



Andrew O'Connor

Graduating: B.S. in Nuclear Engineering

Next Step: Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida

Favorite Purdue Memory: Riding through campus in the Boilermaker Special VII

"Every now and then a man's mind is stretched by a new idea or sensation, and never shrinks back to its former dimensions."

from The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

The past four years led to tremendous growth not only for me personally, but also for the Beering Scholar Student Association. As I near the end of my undergraduate journey, I am astounded by the unmatched gift the Beering Scholarship has continued to be. As an eager and apprehensive freshman, I appreciated the both the honor and responsibility of the award. Now, I most appreciate the family of Beering Scholars we have developed. From a largely inactive student organization my freshman year, we all contributed to establish an association that fosters lifelong friendships, gives back to our Purdue community, and motivates us all reach to reach the highest echelon of scholastic achievement. My fellow Scholars have made me a better person; of that, I am sure and am deeply grateful.

The far-reaching reputation of Purdue led to the inflection point of my career, a summer internship at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. While investigating uranium fuels for deep-space rockets, I learned deeper lessons about how to conduct research and also discovered a zeal for materials science. The wide-ranging strength of Purdue academics allowed me to add materials science coursework to my plan of study and to select a senior design project that fused nuclear and materials engineering. Now I am eminently prepared, unencumbered by student loans, to pursue a graduate education in materials science & engineering.

The many lessons of my Purdue experience, academic and personal, have indeed stretched my mind and molded me into a better person. None of this would have been possible without the financial support of the Beering Scholarship and the social support of the Beering Scholar Student Association. To Dr. Beering, donors, faculty & staff, fellow Scholars, friends, and family: thank you... and this adventure is just beginning!

Alex Moore

Graduating: B.S. in Electrical Engineering

Next Step: Pursuing Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, Purdue University

Favorite Purdue Memory: Tree climbing study breaks during finals week.

I came to Purdue as a member of the inaugural class of the Honors College, welcomed by the newly revived Beering Scholar Student Association. Both of these organizations shaped not only my social experiences at Purdue but also defined projects I would serve on and the students I would choose to make them happen. From working to bring Wi-Fi to Himalayan villagers to introducing me to my senior design teammates, both organizations have allowed me to make an impact as an undergraduate and forge strong connections to the Boilermaker community.

Within my department, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with faculty and students on signal processing projects, competing and presenting across the globe. I met my future Major Advisor along with many other professors who have supported me in developing as a researcher. Purdue's faculty has been instrumental in my academic as well as professional growth; I will be forever grateful for the guidance I have received from them.

Through the support of the Purdue community, I gained my first industry internship and my first summer research experience; I spent a semester abroad in Singapore and a week in Cuba. Each experience helped shape my professional ethics and my motivations in research. I am forever grateful for the Beering Scholarship, both for bringing me to Purdue and for the outstanding community of students surrounding it. I had no idea what awaited me when I first stepped across the tracks four years ago. I am excited to continue research in the Ultrafast Optics Lab at Purdue, pursuing my Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering.



Scholar Spotlight: Embrace the Randomness

By Marlow Rumreich, B.S. Electrical Engineering, May 2017

I never planned to become an advocate for women in STEM. However, I have grown to see that it is often the unexpected endeavors that become the most important. Four years ago, I delivered a graduation speech to my high school classmates with the message to “embrace the randomness.” Although this may seem like a strange sentiment, these words have led me on unexpected journeys and shaped my future. In moments where it was easy to accept the status-quo, ignore the long shot, or take the well-worn path, I decided to embrace the randomness of life. The creation of the Purdue Women in Electrical and Computer Engineering (WECE) Committee has been one result of this approach.

I decided to create the WECE committee with the help of my roommate, another female student in ECE. The purpose of WECE is to support current female students in ECE, encourage female First-Year Engineering (FYE) students to join this major, and maintain connections with female ECE alumni. We have built a community of students, faculty, and alumni from the ground up. In the fall, I worked with professors to present their research and advice on working in academia to current female ECE students. In late April, we are hosting Lila Ibrahim, an ECE alumna, COO of Coursera, and founder of the Team4Tech nonprofit. While on campus, Lila will meet with professors and students, and will also be giving a presentation on her career since leaving Purdue. It is our hope that these events will help to inspire current students to persevere in the face of adversity and continue to pursue their careers in ECE.

I am astounded by the progress we have been able to make in only one year. We have been able to start a constructive discussion within ECE and have even been able to enact departmental change to improve the academic environment for all. It has also been wonderful to engage with the intelligent and passionate women who are part of the ECE and Women in Engineering community at Purdue. I have grown so much as a person because of the mentorship of these amazing women. I am continually working to pay it forward by acting as a mentor to other female students in ECE, FYE, and doing outreach activities for girls in K-12 education. Because of these mentoring relationships and the progress we have made through the WECE committee, I was also recognized as a recipient of the 2017 Wadsworth Undergraduate Mentoring Award. This was an extremely meaningful award, and I was honored to be acknowledged by the Women in Engineering Program and Dr. Emily Wadsworth. Just like with the WECE committee, I did not begin my journey with this in mind, but my desire to embrace the randomness of life allowed me to be open to these opportunities.

We are at a complicated moment in engineering, where women are making significant contributions to their fields while still facing the challenges of underrepresentation and inertia in the workplace. I am confident that the WECE committee will continue to address the challenges facing women in ECE, even when I move on to advocate for women in STEM elsewhere.

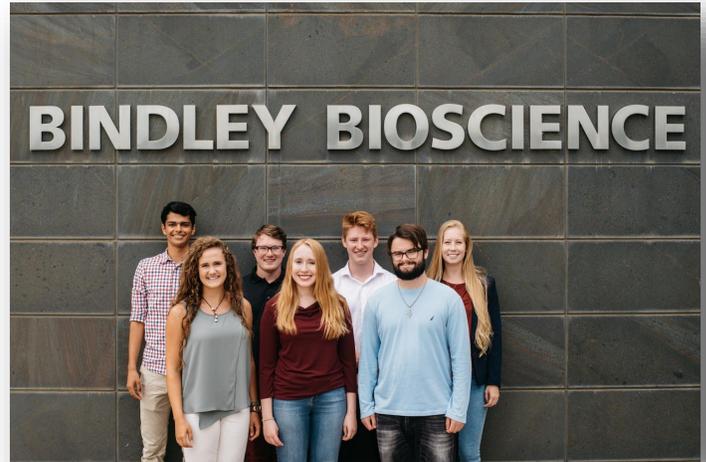


Scholar Spotlight: Big Problems, Tiny Solutions

By Paige Rudin, B.S. Biomedical Engineering, May 2019

11 weeks. 77 days. 1,848 hours. 110,880 minutes. 6,652,800 seconds. These numbers represent time spent learning, exploring, and discovering. Last summer, I had the opportunity to complete an internship with Purdue's International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) team, an independent undergraduate research group based in Discovery Park. The team completes a project in synthetic biology annually to present to the international scientific community at a competition held in Boston's crisp autumn air. This past fall, more than 300 high school, undergraduate, and graduate-level teams from around the world came together to celebrate our experiences and achievements. Team Purdue presented work on phosphorus sequestration, using nonpathogenic *E. coli* to clean water for the purpose of preventing toxic algal blooms. (You have no idea the self control it takes to condense a year's worth of work into this single sentence.)

Jamboree weekend itself was a bit of a blur, fueled by adrenaline and many cups of coffee as we raced deadlines and temperamental internet connections to finish a website, poster, and formal presentation. During the day, teams gave 20-minute presentations to judges and other attendees while other lectures on topics like biosecurity and the future of synthetic biology were held in a separate part of the Hynes Convention Center. In the evenings, the team adventured with new friends from places like France, the Netherlands, England, Germany, and Egypt. Highlights included a walk around Harvard's campus searching for pizza in pouring rain, a serving or two or three of world-famous cannoli, a tour of Gingko Bioworks (a synthetic biology start-up) from a current Purdue student on co-op, and a night that ended on the rooftop of our hotel thanks to a door that may or may not have been unlocked when our French friends found it. At Jamboree's conclusion, the team was thrilled to be awarded a silver medal for our hard work.



Research is made real when it is shared, communicated in such a way that it means something to the person listening. iGEM is an exceptional undergraduate research experience because it allows students to design an experiment, execute it, analyze the results, and communicate the findings. We experience a full cycle of scientific inquiry and are required to think critically so that petri dishes come to life — otherwise, bacteria are really, really boring. I am thankful to be at an institution that affords its students the chance to seek answers to important questions, even if that means watching bacteria grow. At the end of April 2017, the team had the opportunity to present again in Washington, D.C. at the Council on Undergraduate Research's Posters on the Hill, explaining why every student should have the opportunity to use the tiniest organisms to solve the world's biggest problems. Thank you, Purdue, for opening doors to Boston rooftops with views of which I never dreamed.

Scholar Spotlight: Crossing Borders

By Abby Lemert, B.S. Multidisciplinary Engineering, May 2018

With Dr. Natasha Duncan's Honors class "Crossing Borders," I spent my spring break at the U.S.-Mexico border learning about the humanitarian issues surrounding immigration. No matter your stance on immigration, we can all share the goal of minimizing the amount of human suffering involved in the process. We heard stories of extreme hardship, but also ones of immense hope. Here are a few of the standouts:

On day one, we hiked into the Arizona desert with an organization called No More Deaths to leave food and water at drop sites along a popular migrant trail. I'm not the most athletic person ever, but I'm also not the least athletic person ever, and it was a hard hike for me. Now imagine walking the mountains for a week, battling dehydration, wearing ragged shoes and carrying packs weighing 60 pounds. A migrant dies in our deserts every third day on average. But the scenery was beautiful. Only occasionally did a man's worn-out shirt or a child's torn-up sock snagged on a tree branch shatter the illusion.



DACA is an Obama executive order that allowed undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children to adjust their status to legal if they meet certain conditions. We spent one day just across the border in Mexico and met a 19-year-old who had been deported that morning. He was brought to the US when he was 3 and had lived in Arizona all his life, but he didn't qualify for DACA. He didn't graduate high school. When we asked him why, he said his dad

wasn't around, so he dropped out and started working to support his mom and three sisters. "They all graduated, and they all got DACA. One's a secretary. One's a dentist. One's a teacher." He was so proud of them.

If you face this way, you're looking down the cliff face in front of you into the poorest slums in the border city of Nogales, Mexico. If you turn around, you'll see a broad, clean avenue lined end-to-end with modern-looking factories, called maquiladoras. It's a stark contrast. Every morning, the workers climb up the cliff from the slums and walk into the factories. They're paid only 600 pesos a week - about \$6 US dollars a day. It's easy to think that \$6 goes a lot further in Mexico, but \$6 in Mexico actually buys you a large pizza, if they happen to be running a special.



But what good is seeing and learning about suffering if you take no action to spread awareness and alleviate it? In the weeks following the trip, I've spoken to lots of fellow Purdue students and community leaders about our immigration system. I've given a speech on immigration to Cru, the campus ministry I'm involved in, and I'm working with other members of my class to start a student organization supporting immigrant rights at Purdue. I look forward to continuing to educate on and assist with immigration reform in my final year at Purdue, and I'm so grateful to Dr. Duncan and the Honors College for opening my eyes to the multitudes of people whose lives are affected by immigration.

BEERINGS ABROAD

This semester, three junior Beering Scholars are studying abroad in Europe thanks to funding from the Beering Scholarship.



Ana Carneiro
London, England
(Picture from Bordeaux, France)



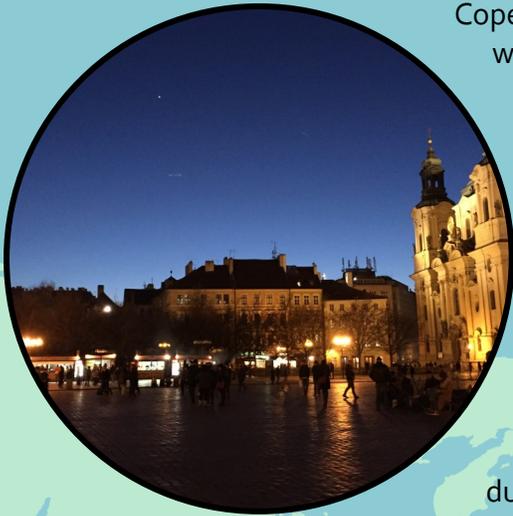
Ben Coomer (far right)
Copenhagen, Denmark
(Picture from Kiruna, Sweden)



Katie Ceglio
Madrid, Spain
(Picture from Segovia, Spain)

Study Abroad Letter: “Hej” from Copenhagen!

By Ben Coomer, B.S. Actuarial Science, May 2018



Copenhagen is alive. It's April now, and the months of rain and clouds and wind and cold are forgotten as the city climbs out of hibernation. There are people packing the streets and the squares. There are people sipping wine with their friends around the sunny lakes and canals each afternoon. And everywhere, there are coffee shops and bagel shops and jazz bars galore.

I'm here for the spring semester, and not just for the incredibly efficient public transportation—I have to study too. My core course focuses on globalization and the EU, and I'm taking some other classes on development economics, creative nonfiction, and espionage in the Cold War. Yes, the spies class is the best. But there's been this common thread across these classes that has introduced me to new perspectives in an intersection of Cold War politics, the EU, and global economics.

Fast Facts About Denmark:

Healthy living! These people really do love their free healthcare. They practically give it away. It took me less than two months to get my own Danish Residence Permit and full access to the healthcare system. I'll be sure to take advantage of this and break all the bones that I can before coming back to the US.

Watch out for that bike! Danes are generally nice and polite, but they will bicycle you into oblivion if you step onto their bike paths. It's the stuff of nightmares.

Debauchery! You think the middle-aged man who you just sat down behind on the bus won't pull out a casual beer at 2 pm on a Wednesday and down it before the next stop, but you're totally wrong, and he totally will, and people won't bat an eye. Other strange things like this happen daily here, and you'll wonder how such an open society can exist. It's hilarious.

Now for some travel. I took a fifteen-hour bus ride (painful as it sounds) to Prague. That city has my heart, and it's hard to say much more than that. Medieval, soviet, jazzy, mystical. I was in awe the entire time.

I was in the northernmost city of Sweden for a half week of dogsledding, northern lights, and reindeer for every meal. It's difficult again to convey my feelings for this place and its barren beauty. It was otherworldly.

My core course went to Moscow for a week to meet with economists and diplomats and the only independent media outlet in the country. We were able to see some famous sites and a ballet at the Bolshoi Theatre. Also, if you'd like to imagine me on a moonlit rooftop in Moscow, battling a Russian agent in hand-to-hand combat in a clandestine CIA operation gone wrong, please do.



I can't wait to see where I'll end up and what I'll see. And I can't express enough gratitude for this opportunity made possible by the Beering Scholarship. It's been an eye-opening experience so far that will definitely shape my future.

Social Scholars: BSSA Lets Loose

Camaraderie and Conversation

In the spirit of the Enlightenment, I, with the help of sophomore Paige Rudin, established Beering Salons to facilitate thoughtful conversations among Beering and Stamps scholars at Purdue. The salons are held in the Beering Reading Room every other Sunday afternoon. Extra chairs are dragged up to the table to accommodate everyone, and classical music from Paige's Bluetooth speaker softly fills the rare lulls in conversation. The refreshments provided are a college student's take on high tea, with multiple varieties available for steeping in Styrofoam cups, paired with Cheetos and Double-Stuf Oreos.



But the real draw of the salons are the conversations. Topics range from the nature of reality, to the risks of artificial intelligence, to appropriate settings for jorts. Examples are pulled from philosophy, economics, physics, even pop culture. The only constant in these conversations is that they are always lively, and always thought-provoking.

It's so rare in college that we set aside time just to think and discuss everything we're learning, and how it applies to the world. But, a Socrates quote I love is, "The unexamined life is not worth living." In starting the salons, I wanted both to challenge other scholars to think deeply, and be challenged by them. Certainly, the Beering salons have provided a unique place for Beering scholars to have their ideas respectfully challenged. And with their success this semester, there are hopes to continue them in the fall and perhaps start a permanent tradition of enlightening BSSA.

- Abby Lemert, B.S. Multidisciplinary Engineering, May 2018

BSSA—Ball Squad Student Association

The Beering Scholars are an academically focused group, but they make time to relax and have fun. Wallyball Wednesdays have been a regular way for the Scholars to get together and have a smashing time this semester. Wallyball is essentially volleyball played inside a racquetball court with a rubber ball that ricochets. The unpredictability of how the ball will bounce off the walls makes the game hilarious to watch and play. The smiles and teamwork are great for building friendships, so Wallyball was included as part of New Scholar Day with the hope of encouraging prospective scholars to come to Purdue. With a new class of scholars hooked, hopefully Wallyball Wednesday will become an enduring tradition!



- Mark Gee, B.S. Biological Engineering, Biochemistry, and Agronomy May 2019

Frozen Fun: Beering-Stamps Ice Skating



As the second semester opened and the temperature continued to drop, the Beering Scholars laced up and met up with the Stamps Scholars to go ice skating at Riverside Skating Center. A goal of this event was to promote interaction between the Beering and Stamps Scholars in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. After plenty of skating and a fair share of falls, the group grabbed some McFlurries and fries and enjoyed each others' company. The Beering and Stamps Scholars are taking steps to increase interaction and grow closer throughout the year, and this was a great event to kick it off.

- Paul Dawley, B.S. Civil Engineering, May 2020

Faculty Mentoring

This spring the Beering Scholars are excited to share good news about our growing faculty mentorship program. Through the generous help of Dean Rhonda Phillips of the Honors College, the eight freshmen scholars were all paired with faculty mentors from their respective departments. Meeting with the students about once a month, faculty typically offer advice about academics, research, and internships. The faculty mentorship program complements the Beering Buddies program, in which freshmen are mentored by upperclassmen Beering Scholars. Programs like these help incoming scholars to become more connected and find opportunities available to them at Purdue and beyond. They remind us that the Beering Scholarship experience is not only an opportunity to receive a world-class education without financial burdens, but also a chance to join a supportive, tight-knit community.

- Hanna Tso, B.S. Biological Engineering, May 2017

I have always had a passion for learning and developing new solutions to current problems, so when I heard about the opportunity to be paired with a faculty mentor through the Beering Scholar Student Association, I was ecstatic. After some searching, I found that electrical engineering professor C.S. George Lee was conducting robotics research involving image processing, machine learning, and automatic controls, which seemed like the perfect fit for me, as I have had a lifelong passion for robotics. When I reached out to Professor Lee to become my faculty mentor, he gladly accepted.

At our first meeting, I mentioned that I was interested in conducting research with him. In response, Professor Lee said something that I will never forget. He said (and I'm paraphrasing here), "I'm here to help you and guide you through any project you would like to do. I would like you to pick your own project rather than me assigning you one, so that you can customize it to your own needs and interests." Professor Lee had just given me an opportunity to fulfill my passion for learning and creating new solutions through my own research, and I couldn't wait to get started.

We decided on a project that will simulate a GPS to determine the fastest route between two points, taking into account traffic patterns and road closures. To do this, an image processing algorithm will capture an image of a simulated path and determine the shortest route between two points on it. Then, a robot will move along that route, accounting for traffic and road closures (different path colors and missing path sections, respectively, that are introduced while the robot is moving). Should the robot encounter these areas, it will calculate a new path to traverse.

Currently, I have developed an algorithm to extract a path from an image and determine the shortest route between two points, accounting for traffic and road closures. However, I still need to work on increasing the speed of the algorithm, calibrating the cameras, and implementing movement controls on a physical robot.

Overall, the faculty mentor program through the Beering Scholar Student Association has provided me with an opportunity that I couldn't have gotten elsewhere. Not only have I gotten to customize my research experience, but I have also been able to develop a relationship with a Purdue faculty mentor that will last for years to come. For this, I am truly grateful.

- Brian Helfrecht, B.S. Electrical Engineering, May 2020



We hope you enjoyed catching up with the Beering Scholars!

The world moves fast, and few places move faster than the world-class Purdue University. Our goal is to continue to build a Beering network, hearing stories from and offering opportunities to all.

Let us know what you're working on now, and we may even ask to highlight you in a future newsletter. We invite you to join the Beering conversation by filling out our brief survey at: <http://goo.gl/blbkBz>

Visit our BSSA website to find our upcoming events, study abroad and internship destinations, photo gallery, and newsletter archives: <http://purduebeeringscholars.weebly.com>

Or email us at: purdue.beeringscholars@gmail.com

This newsletter would not be possible without the contributions of a great many. We would especially like to thank Dean Rhonda Phillips and Ms. Catharine Patrone, our BSSA advisors from the Honors College.

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