# Corporate and Foundation Relations

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

**ILLINOIS** College of Liberal Arts & Sciences **The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Illinois** is grateful for the strong relationships we have built with our corporate and foundation partners. This report is intended to provide a broad overview of corporate and foundation investments in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Illinois and to share select stories that highlight the impact of these partnerships. In FY19, LAS faculty received \$75.1 million in research grant funding with \$5.5M coming from private organizations. Our college also received an additional \$15 million in funding from corporate and foundation partners to support research, scholarships, professorships, and programming among other activities in LAS units and student organizations. Students graduating with degrees from units in the College of LAS were hired by 896 unique employers, demonstrating the broad range of disciplines and skill sets our students bring to industry.



## CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION RELATIONS (CFR) BY THE NUMBERS

**Research Funding Sources** 



### CFR Other Corporate Giving: FY19

FUNDING PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Centers and Institutes	\$500.00
Chairs	\$100,000.00
Conferences/Seminars/Workshops	\$22,022.00
Facilities	\$6,800.00
General Student Support	\$27,500.00
Grad Student Fellowships	\$434,728.40
Lectureships	\$30,600.00
Multiple Programs	\$11,238.00
Professorships	\$3,600.00
Program/Course Development	\$4,400.00
Public Service	\$16,318.19
Research	\$13,830,419.46
Scholarships	\$122,849.00
Specific Programs	\$72,561.00
Unrestricted	\$214,713.57

# **ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS** RECRUITMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON CAMPUS

### ACES + LAS CAREER FAIR

**The 2019 ACES + LAS Career Fair** was the second annual event hosted by the two colleges' career services teams. The career fair draws the largest attendance of LAS students for any campus career fair or career event. In 2019, 765 LAS students representing 46 majors attended the fair. This is more than a 300 percent increase from 2017 when the fair was focused towards LAS science majors. Over 120 employers attended the fair. The event is supported by the LAS Alumni Board, who are a paid sponsor and host a table at the fair to connect with current students and LAS alumni representing the companies.

Five career fair preparation workshops were hosted for students, with three tailored to specific LAS major clusters, one included employer sponsors, and one general session hosted by Life + Career Design Lab paraprofessionals. The career fair planning committee is led by Patricia Simpson and Brian Neighbors, LAS, and Jean Drasgow, ACES. The committee also includes departmental career services and academic staff Katie Kennealy (economics), Kirstin Wilcox (Humanities Professional Resource Center), Andrea Franklin (statistics), Tim Bowers (molecular & cellular biology), Gary Wszalek (psychology), AJ Schmidt (mathematics), and Christina Swanson (integrative biology). The committee demonstrates the collaborative partnerships being made across the College of LAS to better connect students to internship and full-time career opportunities.



### HUMANITIES PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE CENTER CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH CORPORATE PARTNERS



#### The Humanities Professional Resource Center (HPRC)

provides a broad range of resources to humanities majors: career exploration, resume and cover letter writing support, professional communication skill development, career fair preparation, and direct engagement with companies recruiting humanities majors at Illinois.

During the 2019-20 academic year, the center hosted Visa, which led an information session on the company and employment opportunities in technical writing as part of their recruiting efforts. The session was very informative for students and featured English alumna Brittany Curtis ('19) and her manager, both of whom explained the role of technical writing in financial services as well as the career path from an entry-level position as a documentation specialist to other roles in the company. The HPRC also hosted Laurel Straub, Assistant Vice President for Strategic Resources with State Farm, as a guest speaker in HUM 275: Careers for Humanities Majors. Ms. Straub earned her BA in English from Illinois State University and an MA from the University of Maryland, specializing in Renaissance drama. She shared with students about how she rose through the ranks using the communication skills she developed in her study of the humanities and provided great examples of how the critical thinking skills that humanities majors develop can produce solutions to business problems.

### STATISTICS AND MATHEMATICS CAREER FORUM

Fall and spring career forums co-hosted by the **Departments of Statistics and Mathematics** provided a combined 500 undergraduate and graduate students—primarily those studying statistics, statistics and computer science, mathematics, and mathematics and computer



science–with the opportunity to engage with 30 companies representing a broad range of industries from consumer goods to financial services to agriculture and energy. Employers who participate in this small career fair-style event are primarily seeking student talent to fill quantitative, data analytics, and data science roles. Through these forums, student participants learn about each company and their industry as well as a variety of employment opportunities available with these companies including internships and full-time positions.

### ACCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM AND SYNCHRONY PARTNERSHIP

The generous financial and programming support from Synchrony, a premier consumer financial services company, made possible the Access and Achievement **Program's (AAP)** new pilot initiative to support students' leadership and professional development, where students connected with industry leaders and developed real-world skills. AAP serves LAS declared and undeclared students affiliated with the Educational Opportunities Program and the President's Award Program.

Experts in the leadership series, including Synchrony's senior leaders and diversity networks, discussed topics such as navigating a technology world and the importance of diversity in the corporate sector. Students involved with AAP, as well as 100 Strong and the Illinois chapter of the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers, were included.

Additionally, students participated in company site visits in Ohio that included Synchrony's offices in Kettering, Procter & Gamble's headquarters in Cincinnati, and Abbott Labs in Tipp City. The students also explored the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. AAP will continue to partner with Synchrony and grow the program.

# SUPPORTING STUDENT SCHOLARS

### **3M GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN CHEMICAL SCIENCES**

Through a generous gift from 3M, \$10,000 fellowships are being provided to exceptional underrepresented minority and female graduate students in the **Department of Chemistry** and the **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.** The 3M Fellowships were established to recruit exceptional underrepresented minority students (URM) or female graduate students and can also support the continued success of current URM or female students in the program.

The 3M Graduate Fellowship program along with the two other programs in the Department of Chemistry, the 3M St. Elmo Brady Summer Research Scholars Program and the 3M Summer Scholars program, represent a strategic, multitargeted approach to increasing diversity in the chemical sciences. According to Dr. Lloyd Munjanja, associate director for graduate diversity and program climate in chemistry, diverse talent is essential to the excellence of the department's research and teaching missions.

"3M shares our vision of growing and supporting a diverse global community of scientists, and their generosity is making this possible at Illinois." – Lloyd Munjanja, associate director for graduate diversity and program climate in chemistry

"I am extremely honored to be a recipient of the 2019-20 3M Corporate Fellowship, and I am deeply grateful to the donors who made this award possible. Apart from providing me with financial support to continue graduate studies in chemical and biomolecular engineering, the 3M Corporate Fellowship award has also encouraged me and strengthened my commitment towards solving challenges in my current research and reaching my career goals. As a recipient of the award, I also got a chance to meet with a 3M team visiting (Illinois) for the Engineering Career Fair, which was a great way to learn about the employees' experience at 3M as well as to know more about the opportunities provided by the company." – Prapti Kafle, graduate student, chemical and biomolecular engineering

"Being a 3M fellowship recipient during my last year greatly benefited me finishing my PhD study. The 3M fellowship allowed me to finish the last few projects including collaborative studies with other departments, prepared manuscript for publication, and finish my dissertation and successfully defended it. With the 3M fellowship, it was a privilege to have the opportunity to network with 3M and look forward to future events." – Emily Chen, graduate student, chemical and biomolecular engineering



### SHELL TUTORING PROGRAM

The Shell tutoring program in the **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering** supports six student tutors who provide academic support for up to 75 students each semester. Specific courses tutoring is provided for include ChBE 221: Principles of CHE, ChBE 321: Thermodynamics, ChBE 421: Momentum and Heat Transfer, ChBE 422: Mass Transfer Operations, and ChBE 440: Process Control and Dynamics.

"This program is a tremendous resource to those students who wish for extra help beyond the regular discussion sections and TA office hours. Already we hear anecdotes from some of our recent alumni that this program was key in them successfully obtaining their chemical engineering degree. We are grateful to Shell for supporting this valuable program!" – Paul Kenis, chair, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

### **SLOAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARS**

The Sloan University Center of Exemplary Mentoring at Illinois is one of eight UCEMs funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. It is designed to broaden participation in advanced engineering, physical, and mathematical science careers and to strengthen the talent pool in these fields while increasing equitable opportunities in the U.S. The grant supports underrepresented racial/ ethnic minority students: defined by Sloan as U.S. citizens who are African American, Latina/Latino, and American Indian/Alaskan Native in eligible departments. In addition to financial support, Sloan UCEM scholars receive guidance from a team of mentors.

"My acceptance into the Sloan Minority PhD Program, was a crucial component to my decision to pursue my graduate research studies (at Illinois). Since arriving on campus nearly four years ago, the program has had a very big impact on my studies; from the funds afforded to me from the program, to more importantly, the training, mentorship, and community that have enabled me to become a better researcher and a better member of the STEM and minority in STEM communities." – Jason Medina, Sloan Scholar and graduate student, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering "By being a recipient of the Sloan Fellowship, I've been able to attend the 2020 Sloan UCEM Mini-Conference, which expanded my network with other researchers and students (at Illinois). I've also received fundamental knowledge on presentations and mentoring skill that were provided through workshops during the year. This fellowship has not only helped me professionally, but it has been an opportunity to meet people that serve as guides and mentors that help me in every step that I take as well as build a community which I can relate to." – Paola Alexandra Baldaguez Medinax, Sloan Scholar and graduate student, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

### LYONDELLBASELL SCHOLARSHIP

LyondellBasell is one of the largest plastics, chemicals, and refining companies in the world. Its U.S. headquarters are in Houston, Texas. Each year, LyondellBasell generously provides funding for an undergraduate scholarship awarded to a rising sophomore who is either female or from an underrepresented minority group in the **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering** and who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and potential. The scholarship for AY19-20 was awarded to Tiffany Yen, a sophomore studying chemical and biomolecular engineering.

"The LyondellBasell Undergraduate Scholarship not only helped me lift a part of my financial burden but reminded me that hard work and generosity is the key to being successful in the future." – Tiffany Yen, sophomore studying chemical and biomolecular engineering

#### 3M ST. ELMO BRADY SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The 3M St. Elmo Brady Summer Research Scholars Program, housed in the **Department of Chemistry**, provides research opportunities for undergraduates from four Historically Black Colleges and Universities whose chemistry programs were founded by Illinois alumnus St. Elmo Brady (PhD, 1916). The program is a valuable recruitment tool and a critical part of the department's efforts to further the advancement of black chemists.

### **3M SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The 3M Summer Scholars Program supports undergraduate research by placing Illinois undergraduate URM students in the **Department of Chemistry** into research groups for the two summers following their freshman year, which is far earlier than typical. "Studies have shown that engaging students early on in research endeavors leads to continued success in academic programs like chemistry," said professor Alison Fout, program mentor and coordinator. "We are grateful for the support of 3M and for recognizing the enormous impact this has on our students."



# ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### **ACTUARIAL SCIENCE CLUB**

Each fall semester, the Actuarial Science Club engages their club members with company representatives who are invited to campus for recruiting or to present professional development workshops. The club also hosts an annual career fair called Meet The Firms, which, in 2019-20, featured 24 companies such as Aon and State Farm and was attended by approximately 250 students. Following this event, the Actuarial Science Club facilitates the reservation of rooms for companies to host on-campus interviews, and many students receive internship and fulltime offers as a result of participating in Meet The Firms.

The Actuarial Science Club also hosts an annual Spring Symposium, a five-hour event featuring invited speakers from industry and academia presenting on topics that relate to the world of insurtech, emerging industry trends, and the rise of non-traditional practices. This provides approximately 200 student attendees with insight into the impact of technology on insurance and emerging trends in industry.

In addition, the Actuarial Science Club hosted 18 company presentations where students learned more about each firm and had the opportunity to network with company representatives.

### ILLINI STATISTICS CLUB DATATHON HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSFUL CORPORATE PARTNER AND RSO COLLABORATION

With generous financial and planning support from Synchrony, the Illini Statistics Club hosted their third annual Datathon event February 14-16, 2020. Synchrony piloted the program with Illini Stats Club and helped grow the event from 75 students in their first year to over 300 students this year. Participants in the



event, which was co-sponsored by John Deere, Sandia National Laboratories, Procter & Gamble, Microsoft, and State Farm, used geographic information system data to solve a marketing challenge with the goal of providing recommendations to help small and medium-sized business effectively market their products. Teams of 3-4 students had 36 hours to create a 2-minute video pitch selling their idea as well data models and a presentation in order to get into the finals. Finalists gave a live presentation of their recommendations to support their conclusions to a panel of judges from corporate sponsors, who evaluated their use of data science techniques and their ability to answer the underlying business questions.



# RESEARCH

#### ANHEUSER-BUSCH, LLC SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTHY BEE FUND

Through a partnership with Anheuser-Busch, LLC, \$1 from every case sold of a new product aptly named B, will be donated to the Healthy Bee Fund at Illinois in support of vital research on the health of bees and the threats facing bees across the world. Donations to the fund also have the potential to fund summer assistantships for students who are essential in collecting data on bees during the critical warm weather months as well as educational initiatives focused on the health of bees.

Slightly sparkling, subtly sweet B is a 5 percent ABV wine spritzer created from all-American amber honey. This summer, B will be available in three 8.4 oz canned varietals: blueberry, pear, and classic honey.

### HISTORY FACULTY MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS PARALLELS OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND DECLINE OF CENTRISM AND MODERATION IN US POLITICS

In her forthcoming book, "The Decline of Centrist Politics and the Rise of the Punitive State: A Political History of Nelson Rockefeller," history professor Marsha Barrett considers the career of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller from 1959-1973, contextualizing the decline of centrism and moderation in U.S. politics-with a regional focus on the Northeast-after the passage of 1960s federal civil rights legislation. With an emphasis on racially-inflected policies related to welfare, drug policies, policing, and mass incarceration, it reimagines the traditional political history that focuses solely on elected leaders and high politics by incorporating the concerns of social history. This project, funded by a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, reveals how and why punitive policies known for their disproportionate effect on racial minorities originated with a moderate governor who first made his name as an advocate for civil rights legislation. Professor Barrett's book is set for release in late 2021 or 2022.

### SIMONS FOUNDATION PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR MATHEMATICS RESEARCH

Through the support of the Simons Foundation, Philippe Di Francesco, Morris and Gertrude Fine Distinguished Professor of Mathematics for the Illinois Department of Mathematics, was able to take his research on the road to collaborate with top-level mathematicians and physicists from around the world. Named a 2019 Simons Fellow in Mathematics, Di Francesco, whose research focuses in the areas of mathematical physics, physical combinatorics, and integrable systems, conducted research on limit shapes in integrable lattice models and combinatorics of tiling beyond free fermions and interplay between Macdonald theory and Cluster Algebra.

"The Simons Fellowship allowed me to travel during my sabbatical leave and to collaborate with mathematicians and physicists in France (E. Guitter, Institut de Physique Theorique du CEA Paris Saclay), Switzerland (I. Cherednik, ETH Zurich), and California (A. Shapiro, University of California, Berkeley)," Di Francesco said. "Since its introduction in the late '90s, Cluster Algebra has evolved from a combinatorial game to a deep tool of geometry, representation theory, and theoretical physics. Our new understanding of Macdonald theory leads to a drastic simplification of the original setting and is very promising."

The Simons Fellows in Mathematics program provides funds to faculty for up to a semester-long research leave from classroom teaching and administrative obligations, enabling faculty to extend sabbaticals from one academic term to a full year. Established in 2010, the Mathematics and Physical Sciences division of the Simons Foundation supports research in mathematics, theoretical physics, and theoretical computer science, by providing funding for individuals, institutions, and science infrastructure.





# EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### ROYAL DUTCH SHELL AND CHEVRON SUPPORT GEOLOGY SPRING FIELD COURSE

The spring field course, led by Department of Geology faculty and team members from the Illinois State Geological Survey, provides the opportunity for students to visit world-class sites in the U.S. and abroad to examine a variety of geological features. The course also includes field and evening seminars from all participants, with collaborative teams that complete individual mapping and research projects. The trip was supported financially by generous donations from Royal Dutch Shell and Chevron, and provided an unforgettable geological, archeological, and cultural experience for all.

### ROYAL DUTCH SHELL OIL SUPPORTS OUTREACH TO LOCAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

#### **Geoscience Summer Camp for Girls**

Graduate students Julia Cisneros and Aida Guhlincozzi developed a new Geoscience Camp for Girls in the summer of 2019, bringing 30 middle school girls to campus to participate in several geoscience experiments, including mapping volcanic debris on 'Mars', flying drones, and talking with scientists at NASA! Student participants attend a number of middle schools in the local community including Franklin STEAM Academy, Jefferson Middle School, and Edison Middle School.



#### Vermillion River Middle Fork canoe excursions for local high school students

With generous support from Royal Dutch Shell, Professor Michael Stewart leads an annual field trip for Earth Sciences classes from the local high schools down a 6-mile stretch of the Middle Fork of the Vermillion River. Participants observe glacial till exposed in the bluffs tens of meters over cut banks, walk on gravel bars composed of glacial boulders derived from these same bluffs, and search for a variety of glacially derived boulders leading to discussions about erosion of the cut banks and the glacial history of central Illinois. They hunt for fossils in the silty sandstones and mudstones of the Modesto Formation while learning about cyclothem deposition during cyclical sea level changes.



# **FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS**

**3M** Company **3M** Foundation Acibadem University Almond Board of California Altos Photonics Inc. Altrusa International Foundation of Champaign Urbana Illinois Inc. Ambassade de France **Ambys Medicines** American Cancer Society American Chemical Society American Diabetes Association, Inc. American Epilepsy Society American Heart Association American Institute for Cancer Research American Mathematical Society American Political Science Association American Psychological Association Amgen USA Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV Association for Asian Studies Atotech USA, LLC Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation Bobbie & Stanton Cook Family Foundation Bowling Green State University BP North America Inc.

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation Bristol Instruments, Inc. Bristol Myers Squibb Busey Wealth Management Cabot Microelectronics Corporation California Pistachio Research Board Cameron's Catering, Inc. Capita Foundation Central Eastern Illinois Beekeepers' Association, Inc. Champaign County Audubon Society Chevron Corporation Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, LP Council of Writing Program Administrators CYC Technology Group, Inc. Doris G. Quinn Foundation Elsevier Inc. **Endocrine Society** Environmental Protection Agency Exxon Mobil Corporation Friends of House of Sweden Fundacion MAPFRE Galactic Pizza Gash Family Revocable Marital Deduction Trust Genentech, Inc. General Society of Colonial Wars Geocosm, LLC GFT Charity, Inc.

Griswold Auctioneering & Real Estate Hadley Junior High School PTA Harvard University Health Care Service Corporation Heart of Illinois United Way, Inc. Heising-Simons Foundation Hertie School of Governance Highland Service NY, Inc. Hoge Strategies Honeywell International Inc. Ideal Vacuum Products, LLC Incobrasa Industries, Ltd. Indiana University Research and Technology Corp. Intact Genomics, Inc. Israel on Campus Coalition Jacobs Foundation James and Mary Hageman Family Farm LLC James S. McDonnell Foundation Jasco, Inc. John R. Oltman Private Foundation Korea Inst of Science and Tech Europe Law Offices of Adam E. Bossov, PC Lemann Foundation March Madness Fundraiser Margolis Family Foundation Max Kade Foundation, Inc. McDougal Family Foundation

Mean Trail Trust Merck & Co., Inc. METAvivor Research and Support Inc Monsanto Company Montessori Society of Champaign-Urbana Muscular Dystrophy Association National Headquarters National Aeronautics and Space Administration National Endowment for the Humanities National Geographic Society National Institutes of Health National Science Foundation North Carolina State University Electrical & **Computer Engineering** North Shore Dental Associates Ltd. Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research **OSF** Healthcare Foundation Packback, Inc. Plantpure Communities Inc. PPG Industries Foundation Procter & Gamble Company Qatar Foundation International LLC Quantel USA, Inc. Radboud University Nijmegen Relative Value Partners LLC **Research America** Research Corporation for Science Advancement Richard and Marianne Reinisch Foundation Richard J. and Linda J. Sieracki Foundation

Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust S. Drain Engineering of Illinois, LLC Sandia National Laboratories Seemon H. and Natalie Pines Foundation SerVaas Laboratories Inc Sfunga Therapeutics, Inc. Shell Oil Company Sigma-Aldrich Simons Foundation Smick Family Rev. Trust Society of Actuaries Society of Biomaterials Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Illinois St. Paul's United Church of Christ State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Steven and Sheila Miller Foundation Steven J. Kaplan, PC Stotler Charitable Trust Synchrony Financial Systems Oncology, LLC Tel Aviv University The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation The Aslan Group The Breast Cancer Research Foundation The Coblentz Society The David and Lucile Packard Foundation The Dow Chemical Company

The Elizabeth Chipman and James Newton Coker Foundation The Getty Foundation The Israel Institute Inc The McLin Family Foundation The Morton Arboretum The Samuel EELS Literary and Educational Foundation, Inc. The Whiting Foundation The Wolfe Foundation TIAA CREF Tyndall Formulation Services U of I Community Credit Union United States Binational Science Foundation United States Department of Defense United States Department of Education United States Department of Energy United Way of Central Indiana, Inc. United Way of Central New Mexico University of Basel University of Oregon Val J. Krukonis Family Trust Vectorbuilder Inc. Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Wanxiang Group Corp Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc. West Enterprises, Inc. YourCause, LLC Trustee for Phillips 66





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