

CLASS OF 2020 ACADEMIC HONOREES:

College of Arts & Sciences



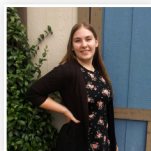
Nia de la Pena (Social Science with a Concentration in History) GPA: 3.75, Magna/Pi Beta Sigma – “Nia de la Pena is an outstanding social science and history program graduate. She is always an engaged learner, intellectually curious, perceptive, and insightful. She readily comprehends information and ideas, and consistently demonstrates high level analytical and evaluative thinking. Nia has been a fine example of a true scholar-athlete and a great campus citizen. With her B.A. now in hand, she is pursuing graduate school in the social sciences. It has been an absolute pleasure to have Nia in several of my classes.” – Dr. Steven D. Edgington, Ph.D. Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



Benjamin Garcia (English) GPA: 3.98, Summa/Pi Beta Sigma – “Benjamin Garcia is a gifted fiction writer. The English department at HIU is proud to acknowledge Ben as one of our highest performing students. In the classroom, Ben inspired his peers and his instructors with his intellectual curiosity and critical insight. Always one to ask bold questions and to seek incisive answers, Ben shows great promise in his chosen field of graduate-level coursework. We wish him the best as he accomplishes an MFA in Creative Writing at The New School.” - Dr. Natalie Hewitt, Ph.D. Professor of English



Brady Lange (Social Science with a Concentration in Criminal Justice) GPA: 4.00, Summa/Pi Beta Sigma – “As his adviser, teacher, and conversation partner, I’ve had the privilege of knowing Brady Lange over the last four years. Brady demonstrates the best of what HIU attempts to cultivate in its students: virtues of humility, intellectual courage, discipline and imagination. I’m most impressed with his willingness to learn from his classmates and to have his viewpoints challenged by others. I could not be more proud of him as he gets ready to begin law school in the fall.” – Dr. Roberto Sirvent, Ph.D., J.D., Professor of Political and Social Ethics; Chair, Department of Social Sciences



Kristiana Lutz (English) GPA: 3.89, Magna/Pi Beta Sigma – “Kristiana Lutz is a remarkable literary scholar, undaunted by challenging subjects. Her essay on *The Thousand and One Nights*, “Tyranny Over All for the Sins of One: Scheherazade’s Subtle Reform of the Rule of King Shahryar” traced the subtlety of Scheherazade’s process in a narrative of extremes. And her work on *Les Misérables*, “Irreproachable: The True Nature of Inspector Javert in a World That Sees Him Only as a Villain” convincingly argues against vilifying Javert. At the same time, Kristi’s work and classroom observations were always enlivened with her unstoppable wit. Thank you for keeping us laughing and thinking, Kristi. Congratulations!” – Dr. Natalie Hewitt, Ph.D. Professor of English



Kelci Saruwatari (Liberal Arts/Communication) GPA: 4.00, Summa/Pi Beta Sigma – “I have many favorite things about Kelci: she is a wonderful student, she is a hard worker, and she has intellectual curiosity. She is one of the most capable people I have ever met. But, my most favorite thing about Kelci is her tender heart. While she excelled in all her classes, oftentimes she would come to me worried about her classmates who were not doing as well. She was crushed when her Korean student group had to return to South Korea. She cares so deeply about other people. I truly admire her for that.” – Dr. Shannon Bates, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication