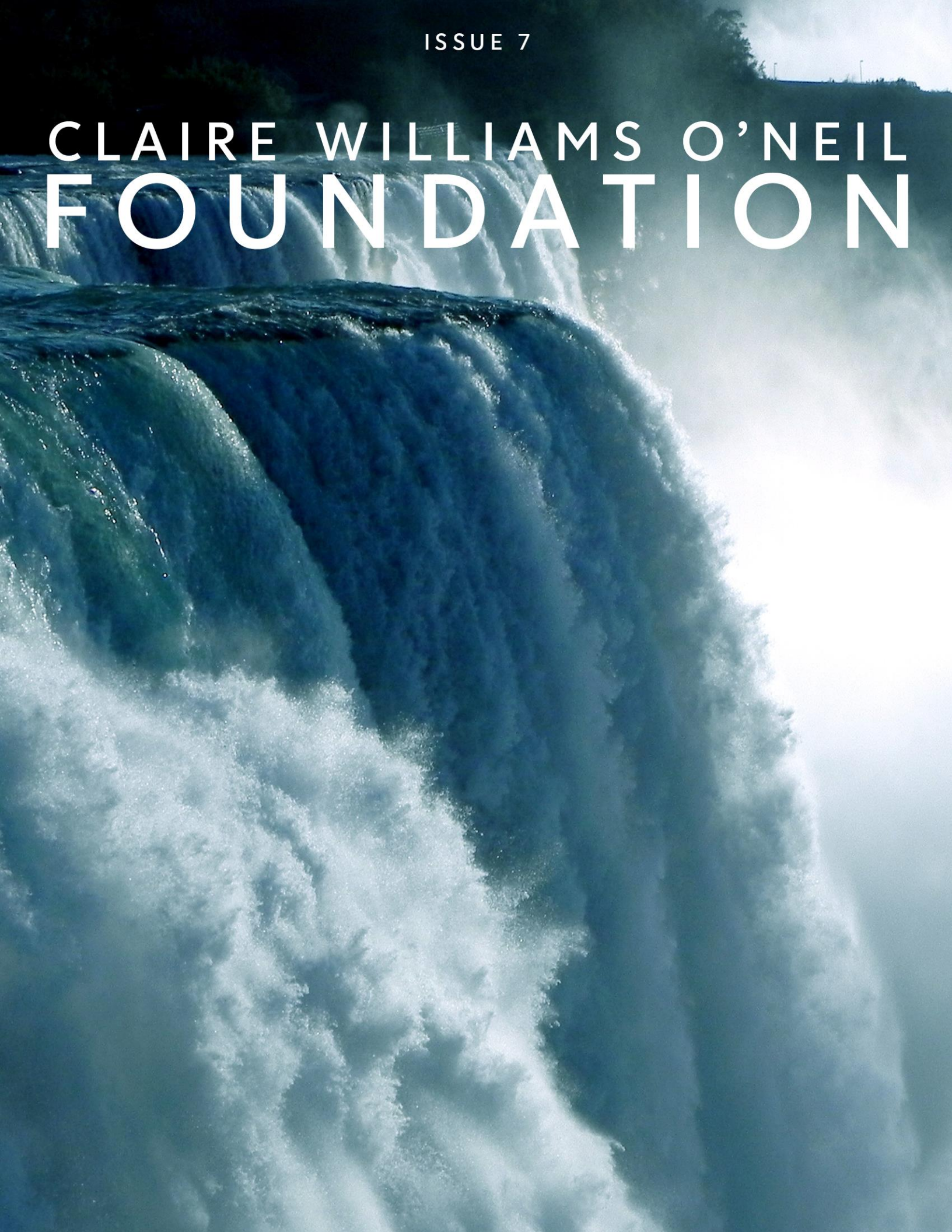


ISSUE 7

# CLAIRE WILLIAMS O'NEIL FOUNDATION





# THE CLAIRE WILLIAMS O'NEIL FOUNDATION

*Dedicated to expanding educational opportunities  
for Susquehanna area youth.*



## FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Welcome to Our Annual Newsletter

Despite a second year marred by the COVID-19 pandemic, our Foundation continued its mission to help Susquehanna Community students prepare for and pursue college education.

Over the past twenty-one years, we have awarded nearly \$1.2 million in scholarships to students in our community to attend quality colleges and universities. This year, two SCHS seniors received university scholarships—Cortney Bennett and Kimberley Swartz. Both will begin their studies at the University of Pittsburgh this autumn.

Since the inception of our partnership with DT Midstream, they have awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to Susquehanna Community High School students whose career goals are in a technology-related field. This year's winner of the DT Midstream scholarship was Zach Consla who will be studying at Johnson College.

The Foundation's funding of field trips over the past year was curtailed by COVID-19 restrictions. However, one was possible—a virtual field trip hosted by DT Midstream. We anticipate that a wider range of in-person field trips can resume in the upcoming school year.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of three consistent supporters of our work and that of the Susquehanna Community School District—DT Midstream (now in the seventh year of its technology scholarship program), the Honesdale National Bank (which continues its valuable Financial Literacy Program at the High School), and the Marie and John Zimmerman Foundation (whose generosity has provided SCHS with a science modeling kit this past year).

One aspect of our Foundation's activities that does not receive wide recognition is our student mentoring program. This involves past scholarship winners coming back to the High School to help existing students prepare for college. Because doing this in person was not possible this year, a set of videos was created by a group of former winners for use by SCHS students. I would like to thank them for their initiative, especially Evan Haley who coordinated the effort on our behalf.

In addition to granting scholarships, our Foundation has sponsored activities such as field trips for SCHS students. These activities have been possible because of contributions from individuals in our community, and we are grateful for their continued commitment to help us achieve our objectives.

Finally, I would also like to express thanks to SCSD superintendent Bronson Stone, SCHS principal Brent Soden, and SCHS guidance counselor Bridget Milos as well as all the faculty and staff of the Susquehanna Community School District for continuing to allow our Foundation to be part of the good work they do.

Roger O'Neil  
CWF President

# 2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## Cortney Bennett

Winner of the 2021 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholarship

Cortney will be attending the University of Pittsburgh to earn her DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) via the School of Dental Medicine's guaranteed admissions eight-year program. Key points of Cortney's high school career include the following:

- Valedictorian of the Class of 2021
- WVIA Scholar of the Year
- Active member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Interact, Scholastic Team, Prom Committee, and Yearbook Committee
- Participated in the following programs
  - Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY)
  - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
  - Lackawanna College Level Up
- Volunteered with the following programs/organizations:
  - Big Brother Big Sister
  - SCHS Mentor Program
  - Parent Involvement Committee.
- Member of the girls' softball and basketball teams



*"Cortney is a very active student who is involved in a variety of sports and clubs both inside and outside of school. It amazes me everything that she has accomplished during her high school years, including earning a College Associates Degree. Cortney lets nothing get in the way of her goals, dreams, and future success!" – Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor*

## Kimberly Swartz

Winner of the 2021 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholarship

Kimberly will be attending the University of Pittsburgh and participating in the six-year Doctor of Pharmacy program. Key points of Kimberly's high school career include the following:

- Salutatorian of the Class of 2021
- Junior Council Representative to the Susquehanna Borough Council
- Nellie Jane DeWitt Business and Professional Women's Club Girl of the Year
- Rotary Student of the Year
- Active member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Yearbook Committee, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Region H Board, and Susquehanna County 4H
- Volunteered with the following programs/organizations:
  - Salvation Army
  - Children's Product Pantry
  - Four Diamonds



- Member of the following sports teams:
  - Varsity Football Cheerleading—2020 Team Co-Captain
  - Varsity Basketball Cheerleading
  - Track and Field—2021 Team Captain

*"Kim has an amazing personality filled with a positive attitude and kind nature towards everyone she meets. She is a team player, a respected leader and community member, and a student eager to learn more each day. Kim has a strong work ethic and strives to be the best version of herself. I am excited to see her future success and to see where this new journey takes her. – Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor*

## Zachary Consla

### Winner of the 2021 DT Midstream Technology Scholarship

Zachary will be attending Johnson College to major in electrical construction and maintenance technology. Key points of Zachary's high school career include the following:

- President of the Class of 2021
- Active member of Outdoors Club, Yearbook Committee, and Boy Scouts of America, where he earned the Eagle Scout Award
- Member of the boys' baseball and wrestling teams

*"Zach is a student full of motivation, independence, and strong leadership skills. His determination to succeed and his excitement for working outdoors is going to pave the way for a bright future ahead of him."– Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor*



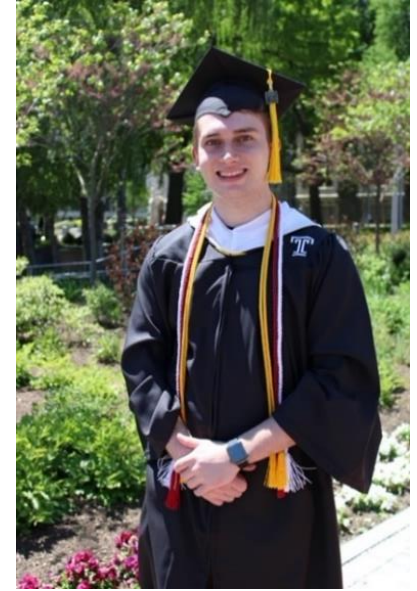


# 2021 COLLEGE GRADUATES

## Evan Haley

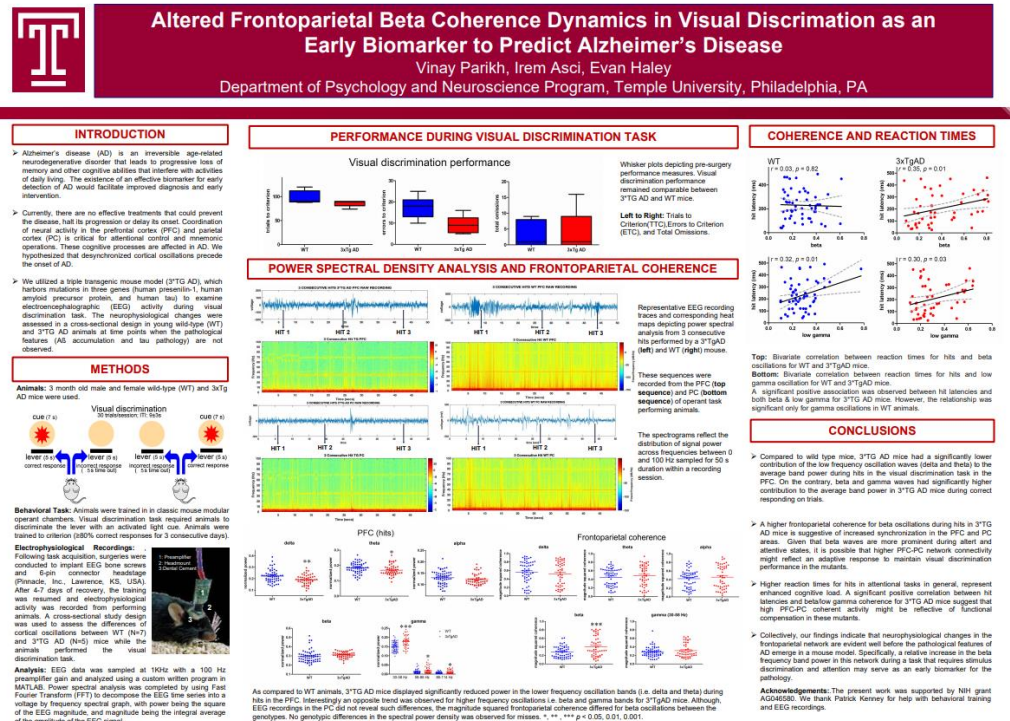
Temple University '21 | Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Evan graduated summa cum laude from Temple University with a BS in Chemistry with distinction and honors and a minor in neuroscience research. He received the Herbert M. Winegard Memorial Award, which is bestowed on the graduating student majoring in chemistry with the highest GPA. Based on Evan's research at Temple, he presented his research paper, *Altered Frontoparietal Beta Coherence Dynamics in Visual Discrimination as an Early Biomarker to Predict Alzheimer's Disease*, at the prestigious American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) conference. He also coauthored additional research projects concerning ADHD and addiction, which are in the process of being published. This autumn, Evan will join the neuroscience program at the University of California, Davis as a PhD student. Evan's research will be funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) to conduct research as an NIH fellow. Evan's long-term objective is to be in charge of his own research lab dedicated to the mechanism behind the diversity of autism spectrum disorder phenotypes.



*"I am eager to attend UC Davis. My first rotation will be with the Schumann lab, led by Dr. Cynthia Schumann, the director of the Brain Endowment for Autism Research Sciences (BEARS). I will have the opportunity to explore the different types of research taking place at the UC Davis MIND Institute concerning autism spectrum disorder. I also received a Basic Neuroscience T32 Training Program fellowship, making me a fellow of the National Institute of Mental Health and by extension, the National Institute of Health. I look forward to working closely with both UC Davis and the NIH in my graduate career."* – Evan Haley

Right: Evan's ACNP poster. In this study, a triple transgenic line of mice was used to evaluate neurophysiological changes in the brain via electroencephalography during an attention-based task in an operant box. The results indicated the laboratory mice required more synchronization and more attention in their frontoparietal network to match the performance of wild mice prior to the development of pathological symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.



# Anthony Dolfini

Lackawanna College School of Petroleum & Natural Gas '21  
| Associate of Science in Petroleum Natural Gas Technology

Anthony graduated from Lackawanna College with an AS in Petroleum and Natural Gas Technology. Anthony maintained a 3.5 GPA, was named to the President's List, and was invited to attend Honors Convocation. After graduation, Anthony was employed by WC Welding Oil Field Service. His responsibilities include tying in newly drilled wells to the processing units.

*'The DT Midstream Scholarship benefited me greatly because the employment positions in the gas industry that everyone strives for are becoming more competitive. The DT Midstream Scholarship is awesome on a resume and helped me get noticed by many companies in our area. Attending Lackawanna College and being awarded the DT Midstream scholarship will continue to be a benefit to me throughout my career in this industry.'* – Anthony Dolfini



# CURRENT SCHOLARS

*Activities of scholars who are currently pursuing their undergraduate degrees*

## Kaylin Trynoski

Binghamton University | Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Kaylin is a senior at Binghamton University majoring in economics. Recently Kaylin was admitted into the Harpur/MBA 4+1 program. Kaylin serves as a Hinman Fellow Student Ambassador, an Admissions Center Student Ambassador, and as one of three ASL II TAs. She is also a member of Binghamton University Softball Club. Over the summer, she worked as an intern at the Honesdale National Bank.

*“In the fall of my senior year, I will begin classes for my MBA. By participating in the dual enrollment classes offered at the Susquehanna Community High School, one half of my undergraduate education requirements were fulfilled before I entered the university. This allowed me to be ahead in credits and complete the majority of my undergraduate requirements by my junior year. Now, I can use MBA classes to fulfill my few remaining undergraduate credits and get a year of master’s classes under my belt. I will then need only one year of education in the Binghamton University School of Management and graduate with my MBA in spring 2023.” – Kaylin Trynoski*



## Kaylee Landry

Seton Hall University | Bachelor of Science in Biology

Kaylee is a junior at Seton Hall. She is pursuing a BS in Biology and a MS in Physician Assistant via a dual-degree, six-year program. She serves as the vice president of her sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau. Kaylee was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester and is currently looking to pursue an entry-level healthcare position to gain experience for physician assistant school.

*“COVID life at college has not been easy, but there are many things for which I am grateful. I’m fully vaccinated, and I’m currently applying for jobs in the South Orange area, which will give me healthcare experience. My sorority has been a great way to keep connected even in the virtual space. Having a leadership position in a sorority during this time has taught me a lot. I’m looking forward to the transition to post-pandemic life where I can get even more involved in my sorority and hopefully other clubs and activities on campus as well.” – Kaylee Landry*





# Taylor Huyck

Elizabethtown College | Bachelor of Science in Biology

Taylor is a sophomore at Elizabethtown College and enrolled in the Accelerated Pre-Physician Assistant Program. She is on the Dean's List and is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Taylor is a member of the women's basketball team. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the team's season was cancelled. Taylor's goals are to graduate with a BS in Biology and an MS in Physician Assistant in 2025.

*"During this past year of college, the circumstances were definitely not ideal, but it allowed me to develop online relationships with professors and others in the Elizabethtown community. I have been able to make friends on the basketball team as well as in the Accelerated Pre-Physician Assistant Program."*  
– Taylor Huyck



# Austin Presley

Lackawanna College School of Petroleum & Natural Gas | Associate of Science in Natural Gas Compression Technology

Austin is in his second year at Lackawanna College School of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He is majoring in petroleum and natural gas technology. He secured a summer internship position with Cabot Oil & Gas in their measurement department.

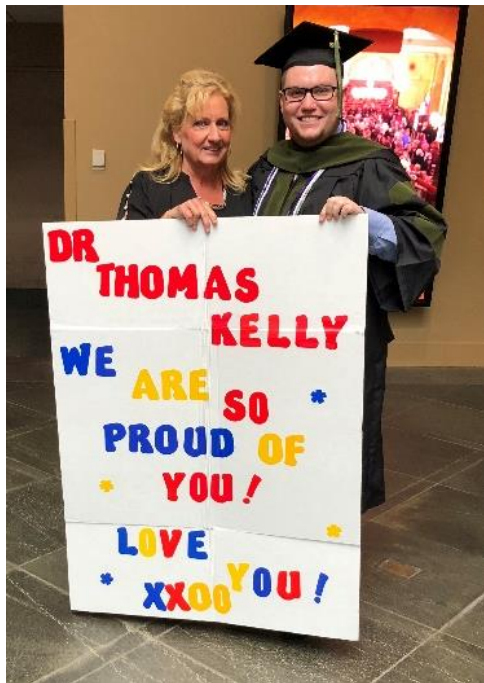
*"I enjoy working with Cabot in the measurement department. You know what they say if you enjoy work—it's not really work. I enjoy this a lot."*  
– Austin Presley



# PAST SCHOLARS

## Thomas Kelly

2010 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholar | Binghamton University '14 | Temple University '18 | Doctor of Pharmacy



*“When I graduated from SCHS in 2010, I had my heart set on becoming an engineer. I went to Binghamton University (BU) and started out in the Watson School of Engineering. When I got to my sophomore year, I realized that engineering might not be for me as my heart was not in what I was studying. Once I decided to change my major and open my mind to other possibilities, I began a personal transformation. I started to become more comfortable and confident in my own skin. I became a tour guide at BU, which I credit for a lot of my growth and allowed me to make many amazing friends. During this time, I was also working as a pharmacy technician at Reddon’s Drug Store, where I realized that I loved building relationships with people and having them trust me for advice. I decided I wanted to go to pharmacy school and ended up graduating from BU in 2014 with a BA in Biology after completing the pre-health track.*

*I then went to Thomas Jefferson University School of Pharmacy (now College of Pharmacy) in 2014 and graduated with my Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) in 2018. It was during my time at Jefferson that I discovered the many different types of pharmacy practice besides just the retail pharmacist that most people know and trust. I was able to do an internship at Jefferson Apothecary during my four years in school and that helped me realize what exactly I wanted to do once I graduated. I stayed on as a pharmacist at Jefferson Apothecary after graduating, beginning a program that assists the family medicine inpatient team with discharge planning and prescriptions for patients leaving the hospital. In August of 2019, I transitioned to a clinical pharmacist position with Jefferson Specialty Pharmacy. My focus until recently was in hematology and oncology, but as of February 2021, my new focus is on developing a home delivery program centered around endocrinology and dermatology. I love my current role because I am able to help patients receive medications they may not otherwise be able to access because of cost and/or insurance issues.*

*I am a proud uncle to my two nephews, Patrick and Owen. I could not be where I am today without the constant support of my family. I recently bought my first home and have enjoyed spending time doing renovations and projects. I live in Center City, Philadelphia and love the diverse and exciting environment it provides.*

*I am truly grateful that I was able to receive the Claire Williams O’Neil Scholarship. It helped me pursue my goals and ultimately helped me become a pharmacist and the person that I am today. I am also extremely grateful for the guidance and support provided by the O’Neil family, who helped me immensely during my first year of undergraduate studies.*

*I am always proud to talk about how our little high school has such a prestigious award available to its students and how many people it has helped over the years. Winning this award helped motivate me to keep going even when I didn’t think I could. I will always be thankful for what this award did for me and for all the other students of SCHS that have been lucky enough to win it.” – Thomas Kelly*

# Melissa Kukowski

2013 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholar | University of Pittsburgh '17 | Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Psychology

"I am a second-year medical student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (Pitt Med). I serve as the VP of Education for the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association and VP External for Giving a Boost, a student organization at Pitt Med that provides free medical school application support for pre-med students. Additionally, I volunteer at the Birmingham Free Clinic, a community-partnered clinic that serves uninsured patients, and the Guerilla Eye Service, a free mobile eye clinic serving western Pennsylvania. Continuing my passion for education, I work as a tutor for Gwen's Girls, I am a volunteer content mentor for the histology and pathology course at Pitt Med, and I mentor multiple undergraduate pre-med students. For my summer research project, I received an NIH-sponsored T35 training grant to investigate the risk of progression of gastric dysplasia or gastric cancer in patients who have been diagnosed with gastric intestinal metaplasia (GIM).



## Estimating the Risk of Progression to Dysplasia or Carcinoma in Patients Diagnosed with Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia During Routine Clinical Care

Melissa L. Kukowski and Jon M. Davison, MD  
Department of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



### Introduction

- In the US, gastric cancer (GC) accounts for about 1.5% of all new cancer cases.
- After being diagnosed with GC, the average five-year survival rate is 32.4%. It can reach 90% if GC is detected and treated before muscle invasion occurs.
- Gastric intestinal metaplasia (GIM) is the replacement of gastric epithelial cells with epithelium closely resembling normal small intestinal epithelium.
- GIM is considered to be a risk factor for GC based primarily on studies conducted in regions with a high prevalence of GC.
- There is uncertainty over the appropriate clinical management of GIM in the US due to uncertainty over the cancer risk associated with GIM.
- In comparison, patients diagnosed with intestinal metaplasia of the esophagus (Barrett's esophagus) are recommended to undergo surveillance to prevent progression to esophageal adenocarcinoma in spite of relatively low absolute risk.

Figure 1. Regular Gastric Epithelium    Figure 2. Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia

### Patient Population

### Results

Table 2. Characteristics of Non-Progressors vs Progressors

Characteristic	Non-Progressors N = 16380	Progressors N = 88	p-value
Number of Endoscopies - N	2.5	4.2	< 0.001
Years to Follow-Up - N	3.88	3.42	0.077
Age - Years			
Mean	56.2	66.7	< 0.001
Range	13.9-96.6	21.3-94.5	
Sex - N (%)			
Male	5727 (35)	34 (39)	0.504
Female	10633 (65)	54 (61)	
H. pylori - N (%)			
No H. pylori	15488 (94.7)	82 (93)	0.536
H. pylori Present	872 (5.3)	6 (7)	
GIM - N (%)			
No GIM	14272 (87)	47 (53)	< 0.001
GIM Present	2088 (13)	41 (47)	

Table 1. Characteristics of Patients with 6 Months Follow-Up with No Dysplasia or Carcinoma

Characteristic	
Sex - N (%)	
Female	10687 (65)
Male	5781 (35)
Age - Years	
Mean	56.27
Range	13.9-96.6
H. pylori - N (%)	
No H. pylori	15570 (95)
H. pylori Present	878 (5)
Intestinal Metaplasia - N (%)	
No IM	14319 (87)
IM Present	2129 (13)
End Stage Diagnosis - N	
No Dysplasia	16380
Low Grade Dysplasia	45
High Grade Dysplasia	11
Carcinoma	32

Figure 3. Progression of Dysplasia or Carcinoma in Patients with GIM vs No GIM

### Methods

- Searched for gastric biopsy pathology reports at five UPMC hospitals in Allegheny County from 2005 to 2021
- Exported basic demographic information for each patient
- Selected 10,000 reports for training set
- Reviewed each report for H. pylori and GIM
- Used training data to classify remaining reports using natural language processing techniques

### Conclusion

- The annual rate of progression to dysplasia or carcinoma among patients undergoing endoscopic biopsy of the stomach is 0.13%.
- Patients with GIM have a significantly higher (0.36% annual) rate of progression to dysplasia or carcinoma. The rate of progression to carcinoma alone is 0.16%, which is within the range of what has been reported in other studies of GIM (PMID: 29228909).
- In comparison, the annual rate of progression to carcinoma among patients with Barrett's esophagus is 0.1-0.3% (PMID: 26021191).
- Efforts to stratify patients with GIM into low- and high-risk groups are needed to better inform surveillance recommendations.

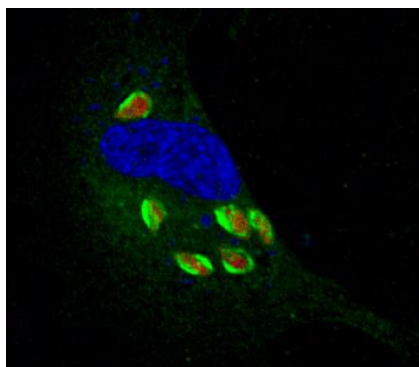
Left: Melissa's Dean's Summer Research Project poster. The annual rate of progression to dysplasia or carcinoma among patients undergoing endoscopic biopsy of the stomach was determined to be 0.13% and that patients with GIM have a significantly higher rate of progression than those without GIM.



# Alyssa Hubal

2016 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholar | Loyola University Maryland '20 | Bachelor of Science in Biology

"I am currently entering the second year of a PhD program in the Pathology department at Case Western Reserve University. My current dissertation work focuses on the signal transduction mechanisms of autophagy to promote host-directed therapies against the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. This fascinating parasite is able to evade the immune system in the body and cause a lifelong chronic infection that can lead to severe ocular and cerebral illness. Focusing on these host-directed therapeutics allows the body to utilize its own response as a mechanism to eradicate the parasite and may be an approach to target other infectious diseases like tuberculosis. In the last few months, I received an institutional research training grant (T32) and an outside fellowship through Prevent Blindness Ohio to support my next year of research. Additionally, I was recently appointed as the president of the Biomedical Graduate Student Organization that mentors incoming PhD students." – Alyssa Hubal



Left: This image shows a cell from human retinal pigment epithelia infected with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. These cells were treated with an inhibitor of the EGFR receptor, allowing for the increased killing of the parasite through upregulation of autophagy signaling mechanisms. Red is *T. gondii* (parasite), blue is the nucleus of the cell, which helps identify where the cell is located, and green is LC3, a molecule that is an indicator of autophagy.

Right: The poster shows a general overview of Alyssa's future dissertation work. It specifically focuses on the signaling protein, Src, that may act as a key regulator of selective autophagy of the parasite. It has been hypothesized that the endoplasmic reticulum can transform into an autophagosome in order to target and selectively kill the parasite.

**Inhibition of Src Signaling in *T.gondii*-infected Cells Leads to Selective Autophagic Targeting**  
 Alyssa L. Hubal<sup>1,2</sup>, Jose-Andres C. Porfílo<sup>2</sup>, Yalitzka Lopez Corcino<sup>1,2</sup>, and Carlos S. Subauste<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> Department of Pathology, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, <sup>2</sup> Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine, Department of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

**Abstract**  
*Toxoplasma gondii* is an obligate intracellular parasite responsible for being the most common cause of infectious retinitis for which *T.gondii* persists in the retina. The parasite is able to evade the immune system by its ability to inhibit autophagy. In this study, we investigated the role of Src signaling in the regulation of autophagy in *T.gondii*-infected cells. We found that inhibition of Src signaling leads to increased autophagy and subsequent parasite killing. This suggests that Src signaling may be a potential therapeutic target for the treatment of *T.gondii* infection.

**Introduction**  
*Toxoplasma gondii* is an obligate intracellular parasite that causes disease in humans and animals. The parasite is able to evade the immune system by its ability to inhibit autophagy. In this study, we investigated the role of Src signaling in the regulation of autophagy in *T.gondii*-infected cells. We found that inhibition of Src signaling leads to increased autophagy and subsequent parasite killing. This suggests that Src signaling may be a potential therapeutic target for the treatment of *T.gondii* infection.

**Methodology**  
 Human retinal pigment epithelial cells (RPE) were infected with *T.gondii* and treated with Src inhibitors. The cells were then analyzed for autophagy and parasite load. Western blot analysis was used to measure the levels of Src, p-Src, and LC3. Confocal microscopy was used to visualize the parasite and autophagosomes.

**Results**  
 Infection of RPE cells with *T.gondii* led to a significant increase in Src activity. Inhibition of Src with the inhibitor PP2C led to a significant increase in autophagy and a decrease in parasite load. This effect was dependent on the Src signaling pathway.

**Conclusion**  
 Inhibition of Src signaling leads to increased autophagy and subsequent parasite killing in *T.gondii*-infected cells. This suggests that Src signaling may be a potential therapeutic target for the treatment of *T.gondii* infection.

**Future Directions**  
 Further studies are needed to determine the role of Src signaling in the regulation of autophagy in other cell types and in other infectious diseases.

**Acknowledgements**  
 This work was supported by the Ohio Alliance of Ocular Inflammation Young Investigator Grant, Fellowship Award for Foreign Students at Case Western Reserve University, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Eye Institute Grants EY019441 (C.S.S.), EY019442 (C.S.S.), and EY019443 (C.S.S.). The figures were created with [BioRender.com](http://BioRender.com).

# Shaun Andersen

2017 DT Midstream Scholar | Lackawanna College School of Petroleum & Natural Gas '19 | Associate of Science in Petroleum and Natural Gas Technology

*"Since graduating from Lackawanna College, I've been employed with Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation. I work as a field operator maintaining equipment on producing wells and maximizing production of those wells. Right now, I am very happy with my position, so I plan to continue working with Cabot for the foreseeable future. They are a great company with great pay and even better benefits.*

*The DT Midstream scholarship helped me get into an industry that has provided me so many opportunities. Not just work opportunities but also the ability to do things that truly make my life fun and enjoyable outside of work. The people in this industry are some of the nicest people with whom I have ever worked. It's like one big community. I would likely not be part of that community without the Foundation's help, so I would like to thank you again for choosing me in 2017."* – Shaun Andersen



## CAREER FIELD TRIP



The impact of COVID-19 required the Susquehanna Community High School to cancel all in person student field trips for 2019-2020 school year. Due to continuing high student interest, the DT Midstream field trip has become an annual event. Because of the Covid it seemed as if the 2020 trip would not take place. Then the staffs of DT Midstream and the Susquehanna Community School District put their thinking caps on, which resulted in DT Midstream developing a virtual career exploration trip for the senior class. The virtual presentation highlighted Susquehanna alumni who are now employed in the natural gas industry. This virtual presentation provided the students a good understanding of the career possibilities in the natural gas industry.

*"Michael Graves (General Manager DT Midstream) did a tremendous job putting together a virtual experience, in lieu of the traditional field trip that is held for seniors. This experience gave seniors who attended by Zoom an opportunity to learn more about the natural gas industry and the different career paths that the field has to offer."* – Lawrence Tompkins, Susquehanna Community High School Teacher

# PARTNERS

*We are delighted to continue our strong partnerships with DT Midstream, The Honesdale National Bank, and the Marie and John Zimmermann Fund. These partnerships are key to meeting the Foundation's goal of improving prospects for the youth in the Susquehanna community.*

## DT Midstream

DT Midstream is owner, operator, and developer of natural gas midstream interstate and intrastate pipelines; storage and gathering systems; and compression, treatment, and surface facilities. They provide clean natural gas to gas and electric utilities, power plants, marketers, large industrial customers, and energy producers across the southern, northeastern, and midwestern United States and into Canada. Since coming to Susquehanna County in 2012, they have become a major employer in the area.

In 2015, CWOFF joined with DT Midstream to expand its scholarship program to include a scholarship for SCSD graduates interested in careers in business and technology.

In addition to the scholarship program, DT Midstream participates directly in the scholarship selection process, and employees personally mentor scholarship winners during their college years. DT Midstream has also stepped up to support SCSD by hosting annual student career field trips to their facilities, funding the acquisition of digital equipment for the school, being involved in student mock interview sessions, and taking part in career day presentations at SCHS.

Recently, DT Midstream published for investors a list of community partners with whom they work. The Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation was selected as one of those partners (see below). We are proud of the cooperation we have with DT Midstream and would like to express our gratitude to DT Midstream and their employees for their sustained support they give to the youth of the Susquehanna area.



[Company](#) [Investors](#) [Customers](#) [Sustainability](#) [Careers](#) [Contact](#) [Q](#)

[Sustainability](#) [Environmental Stewardship](#) [Safety](#) [Landowners](#) [Volunteerism & Philanthropy](#)



We are proud of our recent work and collaboration with the following partners:

- Chestnut Mountain Boys Ranch, WV
- Pittsburgh Opera
- Louisiana Hurricane Relief
- Youth Literacy Program, Detroit
- Friends of the Cheat River, Morgantown WV
- Conservation Resource Alliance, Traverse City, MI
- West Virginia University: Bringing the Emergency Room to The Front Step of Rural West Virginia
- Care Partners, Houston
- Pennsylvania Environmental Action Council
- Mountaineer Food Bank, Gassaway, WV
- Louisiana Food Bank Covid-19 Relief
- Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, Detroit
- Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation, Susquehanna County, PA
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, PA
- West Virginia Department of Education: Communities in Schools



# The Honesdale National Bank

The Honesdale National Bank (HNB) is an independent financial institution serving northeast Pennsylvania and the Southern Tier of New York. Their stated mission includes “acting in the best interest of . . . our communities.” In 2018, HNB demonstrated its commitment to this mission by establishing a partnership with SCSD to conduct a financial literacy program at the school. In this collaboration, HNB both funds and provides resources to help high school students learn the skills necessary to navigate in the modern financial world. In 2021, HNB expanded their partnership with CWOFF by developing a internship program for a CWOFF scholar who is presently pursuing her MBA.

The financial literacy curriculum includes a full range of financial topics, real life market simulations, and presentations by HNB personnel. Students learn about banking services, credit scores, investing, student loans, mortgages, and retirement savings. In a short three-year time frame, the cooperation between SCHS and HNB resulted in a SCHS student winning the latest Stock Market Challenge.



HNB 2021 Financial Literacy Program Funding

In a short three-year time frame, the cooperation between SCHS and HNB resulted in a SCHS student winning the latest Stock Market Challenge.



PennCFL honors Susquehanna Community High School's Bradley Cottrell who worked under the leadership of teacher, Robert Goodrich

Left: “The Stock Market Challenge, through the Brighter Financial Futures nonprofit, is proud to announce that Bradley Cottrell won our challenging competition. He is a student of Susquehanna Community School District and worked under the leadership of Mr. Robert Goodrich to achieve first place in the Wyoming/Susquehanna County Challenge in the high school division.”

In 2021, HNB provided an internship program for CWOFF scholar Kaylin Trynoski who is currently pursuing her MBA.

*“At the beginning of June 2021, I began an internship at the Honesdale National Bank Corporate Center. I worked in the Trust Department with a great staff. I was given interesting tasks to complete over the course of the summer, and everyone taught me something new. Through this amazing opportunity, I gained knowledge that will be of help this fall as I start classes for my MBA at Binghamton University. I want to thank everyone at HNB who took time to expand my knowledge of the financial world. Without the help of the caring staff at HNB, I would have never realized the range of possible career opportunities the banking industry has to offer. Thank you to Mr. David Raven (President HNB) and Ms. Marcy Swingle (Executive Vice President & Director of Human Resources HNB) for supporting me!” – Kaylin Trynoski, CWOFF Scholar*

# Marie and John Zimmermann Fund

For a number of years, the Marie and John Zimmermann Fund has been a supporter of programs to improve the learning environment for students at Susquehanna Community High School. Though this New York-based foundation typically supports the arts and mentorship programs that benefit inner-city youth, Ken Goody, Zimmermann Fund board member and Susquehanna County resident, has helped direct foundation grants to the High School. This year, the Fund donated a science modeling kit to help teach anatomy and physiology.



*“This year, students in Mrs. Batzel’s class started to utilize the clay modeling system paid for by the Marie and John Zimmermann Fund. Students in anatomy and physiology can now create muscle fascicles built by bundles of muscle fibers that are made up of actin and myosin. These students will eventually go forward and be able to mold these muscles on skeletons that are also provided through this grant. Additionally, Mrs. Batzel’s ninth grade students can use the same modeling kit to understand the process by which a cell divides. The best ambassador for the effectiveness of this equipment was a senior student who showed up at my office with his muscle fascicles stating, “I finally*

*understand it!” The smile on this student’s face made it a great day for me.” – Brent Soden, Susquehanna Community High School Principal*



Left: Jenna Krall using a model kit. *“Using these models actually helped me learn where exactly the muscles were located. For me, a hands-on learner, to be able to build all the upper body muscles really helped when it came to test time. More importantly, it has given me a jumpstart into my nursing career. Although we only built muscles so far, these models will allow us to make nerves and even organs. I think these models should be used more often and I really benefited from it!” – Jenna Krall, Susquehanna Community High School Student*

# SCHS INSPIRATION LABORATORY



In 2019, a team led by principal Brent Soden concluded that SCHS students needed greater exposure to cutting edge technology in order to succeed both in college and in the modern workforce and that technological advances in educational software are available to allow the high school to address these shortcomings. What was needed most was a laboratory containing high quality equipment/programs where students could interact with modern technology on their own terms, at their own pace, and use it to accelerate their understanding of this technology. In this way, the students may become comfortable with the rapid changes in technology that are on the horizon.

The mission of the Inspiration Laboratory is to allow students to be creative, innovative, and comfortable with technology such as robotics, 3-D printing, virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence and to prepare them to face, with confidence, the coming world of high-tech employment.

*“Progress in the Inspiration Lab was put on hold while Susquehanna Community School District navigated the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year. However, the stage is set for the district to be back on track during the 2021-2022 school year. The Inspiration Lab is an ambitious program developed by Susquehanna Community School District with the goal of creating a space for students to become creative, innovative, and independent. The Inspiration Lab is 100% community-funded and seeks to put advanced technology in the hands of students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to develop these essential skills for the workforce.*”

*The lab is currently equipped with thirty Sphero BOLT coding robots. These hands-on devices allow students to learn to code computer software, a skill that will be necessary for career opportunities of the future. The lab also has green screen video editing capability. A green screen allows students to swap out backgrounds in pictures and video. In preparing this year’s high school yearbook, students took advantage of the lab’s large green screen capabilities to enhance the professionalism of their production. Unlike most purchased green screens, Susquehanna’s custom-built green screen allows for a large number of individuals to work together instead of just a single person or two. Having this capability allowed students to get creative and allow their imaginations to run free with the yearbook’s group shots. For example, this year’s yearbook has a Netflix theme with each group photo being based on the theme of a TV show or movie.*

*We now plan to hire an Inspiration Lab supervisor to provide a six week after-school learning experience for students. In August 2021, we ordered an additional ten iPads for the lab. This will allow more students to film and edit both photos and movies simultaneously. This purchase will bring the lab to a position where it can be utilized for more than individual projects, including class-wide projects. During the 2021-2022 school year, we want all students in the Jr./Sr. High School to experience in the lab through an introductory project hosted by the social studies department.*



Entrance to SCHS Inspiration Laboratory



*The lab has contracted with 3i Graphics to add signage within the lab. As students enter the lab, this signage will help students sense this is not just a typical classroom; they are entering a special place where creativity, innovation, and independence will be the norm.*

*Plans for the Inspiration Lab during the 2021-22 school year include adding a VR component. VR is essential for students to completely immerse themselves in a 360-degree experience of various places.*

*The staff of the SCHS are grateful for the support of the community in helping us meet the goals of the Inspiration Lab.” – Brent Soden, Susquehanna Community High School Principal*

Donations for this important project can be made directly to Mr. Brent Soden at Susquehanna Community High School (3192 Turnpike Street, Susquehanna, PA 15213) or to the Susquehanna Community Inspiration Lab Fund at the Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains (<https://bit.ly/3eCGo0G>).