Cultivating CAREER READINESS through COURSEWORK and EXPERIENCE
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The Beyond120 program offers students in the University of Florida’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences an opportunity to expand their educational horizons through career development and experiential learning opportunities.

The past academic year has been both challenging and rewarding. While navigating the continued effects of the pandemic and its impact on student engagement and mental health, we expanded our offerings and supported the largest number of students since the program’s inception. We saw all-time highs in career course enrollment and individual career advising sessions. We relaunched our career excursion program, both domestically and internationally, to great success. We grew our mentorship platform and saw over 140 mentorship consultations this year. We developed new health-related internships and inaugurated the first cohort of Morse Scholars, while consistently supporting students in their career-building experiences through scholarships.

As we look ahead, we are excited for the upcoming academic year and the opportunities to continue expanding our support of career readiness in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In particular, our goals for the next year include:

- Developing new exchange programs in London, Newcastle, Manchester, Madrid, Seoul and Tasmania
- Building new internship partnerships locally, nationally and internationally
- Expanding our scholarship fund to support additional student career experiences
- Growing our mentorship platform to connect more students to accomplished alumni and friends
- Launching the Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) Science Scholars Program to emphasize undergraduate scientific research

I am so proud of the work the Beyond120 faculty and students have done in this year of challenge and success. I look forward to building upon our momentum and continuing to work with the incredibly talented alumni, faculty, staff and students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Thank you for your support and Go Gators!

Ryan Braun
Director

BY THE NUMBERS

- 16 SPRING 2022 BEYOND120 SCHOLAR GRADUATES
- 37 EXPERIENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
- 60 STUDENTS ATTENDED A CAREER EXCURSION
- 100 PRE-HEALTH SCHOLARS
- 115 EXPERIENTIAL SCHOLARS
- 141 MENTORCONNECT CONSULTATIONS
- 735 INDIVIDUAL CAREER ADVISING MEETINGS
- 782 STUDENTS TOOK BEYOND120 COURSES
- 1,475 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ONLINE CAREER READINESS MODULES
Career Readiness Instruction

Beyond120 faculty continue to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances to deliver exceptional career readiness instruction. Though we continued to offer many online courses, most of our classes returned to in-person teaching in the summer of 2021. A record number of students enrolled in our career coursework this year.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

“I learned a lot about financial literacy and being able to plan for the future. I also learned about career growth, interviews, salary negotiation, and just about everything I was scared of when it came to adulthood.” (The Art of Adulting; SLS3226)

“This course taught me so much. It might be one of the most important courses I have ever taken and will ever take at UF.” (Professional Pathways in the Liberal Arts and Sciences; SLS1409)

“My goal for my college career is to study abroad and this class facilitated this dream into a reality. I am on the pre-medicine track which will give me a global view of medicine when embarking to another country.” (Global Pathways: Preparing for International Engagement; SLS1006)

Above: Photo from the “Law & Literature” course, where students learn legal principles and practice applying them to literary texts in mock trial competition.

Total Enrollment

782 Students

COURSES TAUGHT

Professional Pathways in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
Global Pathways: Preparing for International Engagement
Introduction to the Pre-Health Process
Introduction to Research in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
Pre-Health Pathways
The Art of Adulting
Strategic Self-Marketing in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
Industry Insights
Collaborative Research Experience in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
Law & Literature
Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences

Individual Career Coaching and Advising

Last year we implemented an online appointment system to allow students to meet one-on-one with faculty to discuss their career development. This year we expanded this resource, resulting in 735 individual career consultation meetings.

MEETING WITH STUDENTS, MAKING CONNECTIONS

Providing greater accessibility to one-on-one career advising has been crucial over the past year. Students come to these meetings at all levels of preparedness and experience, and our faculty meet them where they stand. Whether it’s a straightforward resume review or mock interview, a deeper conversation about professional pathways that align with their values, or how to fund a study abroad trip, each student leaves these consultations closer to their professional goals.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I find a relevant internship, study abroad opportunity or research experience?
2. How do I tailor my resume and interview to fit a particular position?
3. How can I discover the jobs and industries available to me?

Beyond120 Appointment Calendar

CAREER ADVISING APPOINTMENTS

735
Immersing Students in the World of Work

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, we relaunched our Career Excursion program in the Spring 2022 semester. During these immersive trips, students explore career communities, meet industry professionals, build networks, and expand their understanding and occupational imagination of various career fields and sectors. This year, students visited the FBI Field Office in Tampa, experienced the Atlanta business community, gained healthcare and intercultural perspectives in Oaxaca, Mexico, and immersed themselves in the public service world in Washington, D.C.

MARCH 8-12, 2022: ATLANTA

Over the spring break, we took 14 students to Atlanta to learn about various businesses and industries. After meeting with alumni business leaders and professionals, students gained knowledge of career pathways they never would have imagined. All 14 attendees received job or internship offers.

In March, we took 16 students to the FBI Field Office in Tampa to expose them to the various career opportunities available through the FBI.

APRIL 30-MAY 8, 2022: OAXACA, MEXICO

Beyond120 took 10 pre-health students to Oaxaca to give them a global health perspective, clinical observation experience, and an introduction to issues in healthcare disparities.

MAY 9-13, 2022: WASHINGTON, D.C.

In partnership with the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, we took 20 students to the nation’s capital to immerse them in the world of civic-oriented careers. It was a truly transformative experience for the students, who learned about career pathways, built relationships and expanded their professional imaginations.

Above: CLAS students and faculty pictured with Debbie Wasserman Schultz, congresswoman and UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences alumna. Right: Mikhail Mikhaylov, pictured with congresswoman Kat Cammack, U.S. representative from Florida’s 3rd district, which includes Gainesville.

“To me, excursions are almost like professional field trips for college students that are focused on learning about different career fields and networking with different companies.”
— Stephanie Odom, History major

“Shadowing in clinics allowed us to see healthcare from a new perspective and I learned more than I ever could in a classroom.”
— Julia Ingram, Biology major

“Due to the amazing guest speakers and UF alumni connections, as well as the fascinating group activities, this excursion was both a delightful personal experience and a beneficial professional venture.”
— Mikhail Mikhaylov, Political Science major
Career Events

PRE-HEALTH SERVICE GROUPS

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Beyond120 Pre-Health Scholars gave back to the local community. They conducted campus and community clean-ups and constructed and distributed care packages for veterans in hospice at Vitas Healthcare and unhoused community members at the Gainesville St. Francis House.

Experiential Scholars/ Pre-Health Scholars

The Experiential Scholars and Pre-Health Scholars Programs are supplemental systems that encourage students already engaging with opportunities offered by the Beyond120 program to maximize their experience. The program operates on a points-based system that requires students to complete 20 points by the time they graduate. The students who meet this lofty threshold clearly demonstrate a commitment to career readiness and experiential learning.

In Spring 2022, we recognized 16 total graduating students who earned the Beyond120 Scholar designation, certificate and regalia.

SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATING EXPERIENTIAL SCHOLAR ON THE IMPACT OF BEYOND120

“Beyond120 has truly been one of the best programs I’ve gotten involved with at UF. I am a firm believer that experience and how you apply lessons from the classroom is crucial. Hearing about the different avenues and industries my liberal arts degree can take me through experiential learning and excursions, especially from successful industry leaders, is always such an insightful experience. The opportunities for professional development never ends, even as an alums. I am so grateful for everything Beyond120 has given me, whether it be life skills or forever friendships.”

— Ariane Latras, 2022 CLAS graduate

PRE-HEALTH SCHOLAR LEARNS THE IMPORTANCE OF HOSPICE CARE

We established an internship program for the Pre-Health Scholars with local organization Community Hospice and Palliative Care. In Fall 2021, rising senior and Biology major Ryanne Thelwell participated in this internship, and in her words: “Entering this internship, I did not have a full understanding of the purpose of hospice and palliative care facilities or how they operated. This internship allowed me to observe the biopsychosocial model of healthcare in action while helping shape my future goals.”

CAREER WORKSHOPS

Beyond120 continued to offer relevant career workshops to students, utilizing alumni, successful students, and faculty across campus to provide insight and guidance.

SPRING 2022 GRADUATE ANA CAVALCANTE REFLECTS ON HOW BEYOND120 IMPACTED HER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Getting involved with Beyond120 in my freshman year was one of the best decisions I have made at UF. I never could have imagined that taking a class in my first semester of college would open so many doors throughout the rest of my time at UF. My experience with Beyond120 has included one scholarship, four classes, five excursions, ten-plus workshops, dozens of alumni connections, and a collection of lasting friendships. This program has constantly pushed me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to think about my future career in a less linear model and to consider opportunities I had not previously been exposed to. It has been an honor to have been surrounded by so many self-motivated peers and to have been mentored by the team that helms the program. My time at UF and how I view my future career path have been irreversibly impacted by my involvement with Beyond120, and I will forever be grateful for it.

— Ana Cavalcante

215 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

16 GRADUATING EXPERIENTIAL & PRE-HEALTH SCHOLARS
Beyond120 Scholarships

The Beyond120 program provides scholarship funding to support students in various academic and experiential endeavors, particularly internships, study abroad and research. Additionally, our CLAS Cares fund supports students experiencing hardship. We are proud to be able to support students in this way and look forward to increasing our support capacity in the future.

**MOMBO NGU, RISING SENIOR SOCIOLOGY MAJOR ON A PRE-MED TRACK**

“The Beyond120 program provided me a scholarship which helped me finance my study abroad trip to Vigo, Spain. I was able to shadow physicians, improve on my Spanish speaking skills, and surround myself in another culture while there.

To be able to have this financial support allowed for me to attend and experience this once in a lifetime opportunity. My family and I are incredibly grateful that the Beyond120 program invest their resources and time into my journey. I am incredibly excited to apply what I have learned in Spain into my everyday life and future career in medicine.”

CLAS MentorConnect

Since launching MentorConnect at the beginning of the pandemic, we have continued to grow this platform to give students an opportunity to virtually connect with mentors. The Gator Nation is everywhere, and with a CLAS alumni base of over 125,000, we recognize the opportunity to connect undergraduate students with UF alumni and friends from various industries. In the past year, we have:

- Refined the technical performance of the platform
- Simplified the process to request and accept consultations
- Provided more guidance to mentees regarding how to prepare for their meetings
- Recruited a broad group of mentors to support our students’ diverse interests

**GOALS FOR THE FUTURE**

» Increase engagement with platform and number of consultations
» Create more groups based on academic departments, industries and interest areas
» Provide additional coaching and preparation guidance for mentees
Students who participate in research during their undergraduate experience build valuable skills, contribute to scholarly communities and enhance their competitiveness for graduate school and in the workforce. Despite the enduring challenges of the pandemic, Beyond120 continued to support and provide opportunities for student research.

**2022 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

On April 7, 2022, Beyond120 students were out in force presenting their research at the Center for Undergraduate Research 2022 Research Symposium.

**HUMANITIES AWARD (FACULTY)**

Faculty mentorship is a critical part of the student research experience, and each year we recognize a CLAS faculty member for excellence in research mentorship in the humanities. The 2022 award winner is Jaime Ahlberg from the Department of Philosophy.

“Dr. Ahlberg is someone willing to step up for the least advantaged. I strongly believe her work has contributed to the world itself becoming a little more human.”

— Aimee Clesi, Mentee & Student of Dr. Ahlberg

**MIGNARDI CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AWARD**

For demonstrating excellence in undergraduate research in chemistry, Alivia Ishee received the Mignardi Chemistry Research Award for the 2021-2022 academic year. A rising UF junior and double major in Chemistry and Microbiology, Alivia conducts research in the UF Ding Medicinal Chemistry Laboratory. She was selected to participate in the American Chemical Society LEADS Conference in Washington, D.C., which allows promising young scientists to meet with and learn from distinguished researchers in their fields.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**MORSE SCHOLARS**

Thanks to the generosity of UF alumni Joe and Kristin Morse, we welcome the inaugural cohort of the Morse Scholars program. This program supports Pre-Health students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who demonstrate tremendous academic and professional potential at the beginning of their collegiate careers. Morse Scholars are students who are part of an under-represented population in healthcare and receive structured academic, professional and financial support through the Beyond120 program during their undergraduate experience. We are excited to welcome the next cohort of Morse Scholars in Fall 2022.

**CLASS of 2025 MORSE SCHOLARS**

**MALANA JACKSON**
Exploratory Major

**JANAE HODGE**
Microbiology Major

**MANAAL ZULFIQAR**
Biology Major

**EMORY RANES**
Biology Major
Introducing Gillian Lord

NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

After a decade of remarkable service, Joseph Spillane is stepping down from his leadership role, returning to his scholarship and teaching in the Department of History. Longtime chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies Gillian Lord steps into the role of associate dean for student affairs and director of the Academic Advising Center. She will oversee many CLAS initiatives, including Beyond120.

Lord (Ph.D., Penn State) joined the Department of Romance Languages, now Spanish and Portuguese Studies in 2001. She directed the lower division Spanish language program for more than 10 years and chaired the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies from 2010-2021. Lord’s teaching, research and service highlight her commitment to our educational mission and her dedication to student success. She has taught at all levels of the curriculum, ranging from beginning language classes to specialized graduate seminars, in addition to co-teaching a cross-disciplinary Quest class. She has received multiple awards for her teaching and mentoring, including the UF Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Mentoring Award, the CLAS Teacher of the Year Award, and the UF Center for Leadership and Service Faculty of the Year Award. Lord’s research focuses on second language acquisition. She has published extensively on the linguistic outcomes of classroom-based teaching and learning, and has recently co-authored a beginning and intermediate digital Spanish text program. Lord’s leadership spans departmental, college and university service, including serving as chair of the CLAS Faculty Council and in key roles on the CLAS and University Curriculum Committees, General Education Committee, and CLAS Tenure and Promotion Committee. Lord has worked as a Preview advisor for 11 years and serves as Associate Chief Marshal for University Commencements. She looks forward to working with the Academic Advising Center to shape the undergraduate experiences of our CLAS students.

Looking Ahead: Beyond120 Goals & Growth

We are thrilled to have accomplished so much over the past year.

Here is what is on the horizon for Beyond120:

» Expand international offerings to enhance students’ global literacy

» Provide more students with curated internship opportunities

» Grow scholarship funding to ensure every CLAS student has the opportunity to meaningfully participate in experiential learning

» Make greater mentorship connections between CLAS alumni and students

» Build our current Scholars programs and successfully launch new ones, such as the Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) Science Scholars

» Support CLAS faculty across departments to develop Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) courses to expose more students to academic research

» Support student leadership development through the CLAS Beyond120 Ambassadors Program

“Experiential learning is very much in line with everything I have always believed as an educator. In fact, the very nature of language teaching, in particular, emphasizes the key components that make up the foundation of Beyond120: opportunities to practice what we learn beyond the classroom, real-world experiences, and cross-disciplinary applications of our learning. I’m very excited to continue supporting the essential work that Beyond120 does, and I hope to help them maintain and expand all the curricular and extracurricular opportunities they provide for our students.”
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PROGRAM’S MANY DONORS, FRIENDS AND INTERNSHIP PROVIDERS!

The students and faculty of Beyond120 deeply value your support and appreciate your continued investment and partnership.

For more information on how you, or your organization, can get involved and support Beyond120 initiatives, please contact:

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