

Meet the February 2020 Students of the Month

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: AMARI MCGLORY

Amari McGlory is a psychology freshman majoring and working towards her Leadership Studies Certificate. Originally from Topeka, Amari is involved in various organizations and associations on campus. She is a part of the Student Government Association, Black Student Union, and Residence Hall Association and is on the Tiger Team and Hall Council. Amari spends her time watching Netflix, eating, and hanging out with her friends outside of school. At first, Amari considered Organizational Leadership as her major but decided to stick with the certificate. Introduction to Leadership Concepts has been her favorite and only leadership course she has taken so far. “It has taught me a lot about myself and how I can strengthen my leadership skills.” Congratulations, Amari!

FHSU Online STUDENT: COURTNEY HENDRICKSON

Originally from Laurel, Montana, Courtney Hendrickson is in her first semester of achieving her Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. Courtney is also working towards a certificate in accounting. She became involved in leadership studies when medically discharged from the military. While serving, Courtney took part in many leadership development training, which she loved. She said, “Due to my back injury, I have had to reevaluate my direction in life, and I knew leadership studies would be a part of it. It seemed that FHSU’s Department of Leadership Studies fit my goals perfectly.” Courtney has enjoyed the course Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership because the theories fascinate her, and the system is similar to a class she took in her undergrad. Outside of school, her hobbies include spending time with her family, cooking, baking, and learning more about wine, beer, animals, and new sociological theories. Congratulations, Courtney!

FHSU Online STUDENT: MADISON SHETLAR

In her last semester of graduate school, Madison Shetlar is finishing her Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. After taking a few leadership courses throughout high school and her undergrad, she became interested in leadership and “eagerly registered” when she found the MPS program through FHSU. Madison said, “I have loved the organizational leadership program and my professors. I have been challenged and learned a lot about myself and my organization.” Her favorite course has been Organizational Systems, Change, and Leadership because she took it when it was very relevant to her life, and it assisted her through the process of changes in administration. Madison works as a 7-12th grade art teacher and is very involved in her school. This school year, she works as the art club and middle school cheer sponsor and is the coach for middle school girls’ basketball and high school track. In her free time, she enjoys traveling around Kansas to find new restaurants and bars to eat at, working in her art studio, running, and relaxing at home. Congratulations, Madison!

Meet the March 2020 Students of the Month

ON CAMPUS STUDENT: JACKILYN DOUGHERTY

Originally from Wichita, Kansas, Jacki Dougherty is a senior majoring in Organizational Leadership while working towards a Global Leadership Certificate. On campus, Jacki is involved in various organizations; Student Government Association, VIP Ambassadors, the VALUE Program, and is a Peer Academic Leader Advisor. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, playing guitar, winning board games, napping, and spending a lot of time with her friends. Jackie chose to become involved in leadership studies after taking the introductory course for her learning community. She says, "I fell in love with the material. I felt it resonated with my values and I was always interested in class, so I took a leap and made it my major and am proud of that decision." Jackie's favorite leadership course that she has taken has been Women and Leadership because it has an emphasis on a population that is rarely instructed over. "The course was empowering and extremely informative." Congratulations, Jacki!

ON CAMPUS STUDENT: JAIDYN MCHENRY

Jaidyn McHenry is a senior working towards a major in Radiologic Technology and a minor in Leadership Studies. From Minneapolis, Kansas, Jaidyn first became involved in the department after her advisor suggested her getting a minor in this field of study. At first, she was a little hesitant because had not heard much about the program or considered herself to be much of a leader. After asking around and learning more about the program, Jaidyn stepped out of her comfort zone and registered in a couple entry level courses. "These courses have been some of the most beneficial and applicable courses I have taken thus far in my college career. It has been so intriguing watching myself evolve and really start to understand not only myself on a deeper level, but also how leadership fits into my life and how I will be able to apply this knowledge in my everyday life and future career." When asked what her favorite course has been, Jaidyn said, "Yeah, there's no way I could choose just one." Each has been challenging and beneficial in their own way and she has enjoyed getting to know her classmates and professors through various experiences. Congratulations, Jaidyn!

FHSU Online STUDENT: JAYLYNN ANDERS

Majoring in Organizational Leadership and working towards a certificate in Management, Jaylynn Anders is a sophomore from Salina, Kansas. Jaylynn became involved in leadership after she realized it would help her promote multiple opportunities in her future. "I chose the Department of Leadership Studies as I was confident it would aid me while building a solid foundation in business knowledge, emotional intelligence, and effective communication. I felt this program would overall give me the skills necessary for a wide range of organizational and supervisory positions." One of Jaylynn's favorite leadership courses has been Leadership and Personal Development because it allowed her to reflect on her own life experiences and look towards the direction she wanted to go in. She has also enjoyed Advanced Leadership Behaviors because it taught her more about the importance of followership and the transition into leadership position. Outside of school, Jaylynn is involved in local organizations; the Noon Optimist Club and the Kansas Cancer Partnership Tobacco Coalition. Jaylynn's hobbies include crafting, spending time with her friends and family (especially at a lake), traveling, sleeping in, and enjoying steak dinners. Congratulations, Jaylynn!

Meet the April 2020 Students of the Month

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: Faith Little

Originally from Holton, Kansas, Faith Little is a freshman majoring in Communication Studies while working towards a Leadership Studies Certificate. On campus, Faith is involved in various organizations; FHSU Cross Country and Track & Field, Christian Challenge, Center for Civic Leadership, and the Honors College. In her free time, she enjoys learning new songs on her ukulele, creating art, reading, and being civically engaged through community service! Faith chose to become involved with the Department of Leadership Studies because she was drawn to the excellence of the academic program, the intelligent and kind community within the department, and also the learning opportunity to better access the needs of the community as she pursue her dream of starting a nonprofit. Faith's favorite leadership course that she has taken has been Introduction to Leadership Concepts taught by Professor Greenleaf. Every concept in class has been insightful and impactful. She is excited to apply the knowledge she has gained in this class throughout her life in college and as she pursues her career ambitions. Congratulations, Faith!

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: Tatum Ditto

VIRTUAL STUDENT: Marisol Antunez (MPS Student)

Marisol is an MPS Graduate student from New York. Outside of school, she likes to spend time hiking, blogging, biking, and cooking. She got involved with Leadership because she has always been fascinated with leadership. Specifically, she enjoys learning about the dynamics of people, relationships, and communications with one another that I always wondered what makes individuals follow other individuals. Marisol's favorite leadership class has been LDRS 818: Ethical Leadership. Marisol mentioned that " This class has really blown my mind. Not only was the literature so educational but the questions and assignments the professor would give us really made you think outside the box- really opened your mind about what is ethics, what is morals, how does that apply in leadership. It has opened my eyes to the true depth of ethics and ethical behavior. Each week I would talk to my friends and family about what I am learning and what their thoughts on the subject- it has led to some of the most interesting conversations. When choosing an elective, my advisor Professor McRay highly recommended this course to me and I am grateful she did." Congratulations, Marisol!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: Yubing (Serena) Ding (SNU)

Serena is a junior from Shenyang working toward a degree in International Trade. She is taking leadership classes to help achieve mutual benefit in the maximum trade between China and other countries. She is involved in AIESEC, which is committed to providing talent assistance to other developing and underdeveloped countries and attracting students from these countries to take challenging internships in developed countries. Now, because of the global outbreak of COVID-19, she and her classmates have formed an environmental group to contribute to the environmental issues their communities. Outside of school, Serena likes to learn and teach others Japanese. Serena enjoys taking leadership courses because "As a Chinese student, I am deeply aware that Chinese students are lacking in the formation and development of leadership. Thus, in order to promote leadership to more students in the future, we must learn to use leadership, and convert the knowledge in the textbook into our own habits." So far, Serena's favorite leadership course is LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies because she prefers to develop leadership through practice rather than learning from books. Congratulations, Serena!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: Qiao (Violet) YiXuan (Sias)

Violet is a junior from Xinzheng City, Henan Province, China working toward a degree in International Economy and Trade. She is taking leadership classes because she wants to expand her horizons and the ability to practice leadership. She has actively served her community by joining the Xinzheng volunteer association and went to pick up garbage in Huangdi's hometown in Xinzheng and handing out flyers to teach people how to protect the environment. Furthermore, her team put on fundraisers to buy food and clothing for a family in need. Outside of school, Violet likes to play the piano and badminton, travel to different places, and go to the gym. Serena enjoyed LDRS 640: Principles of Civic Leadership with Jeff Bourgeois because "This is the first time I have served as a class leader in leadership courses through the encouragement of teacher Jeff, and I learned a lot of theoretical knowledge of leadership. This is the most memorable reason for me. And there is often a difference between theory and practice. I can learn a lot from practice about leadership. Then, this course gives us a lot of practice and can help non-profit organizations. I think it is good to inspire our conscience and we can flexibly use what we have learned to help the NPO. True knowledge comes from practice." Congratulations, Violet!

Meet the May 2020 Students of the Month

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: Leon Dammert

Leon is a freshman Marketing/Management major from Heidelberg, Germany. On-campus, he is the secretary of the International Student Union. Uniquely, he is part of the Track and Field team at Fort Hays State University. His hobbies include running hurdles, participating in the 200m and long jump events, and meeting friends. Leon chose to get involved with the department because “Everybody is a leader at one point in his or her life and I think it is important to have a basic knowledge of leadership studies. I have already seen lots of really bad leaders and I told myself I want to be better than them.” His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. He enjoyed the course because he did not just learn from taking a lot of tests. rather, he learned a lot about himself and his daily life. Congratulations, Leon!

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: David Oakley

David is a senior Political Science graduate from Lyndon, Kansas. On-campus, he is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Former President, and current member of FHSU’s Economics Club and Treasurer of FHSU’s Young Democrats. His hobbies include woodworking and building a home desk to utilize during his new job. David chose to get involved with the department because “A friend of mine is a Leadership Studies major, and we had discussed political theories and philosophies in the past, and then he recommended that I take the Leadership Concepts course, and I did. We have had a couple of discussions about leadership traits and behaviors since I took the class.” His favorite leadership class so far has been LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts. He enjoyed the course because it reinforces all of the lessons he learned through individual experiences and helps individuals identify how to be an effective and ethical leader or follower. Congratulations, David!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: Siyuan (Gary) Hou (SNU)

Congratulations, Gary!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: Boyu (Taylor) Chen (Sias)

Congratulations, Taylor!

MEET THE SEPTEMBER 2020 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

VIRTUAL STUDENT: JEFF ROLLAND

Jeff Rolland is the Virtual Student of the Month, working towards a Master of Professional Studies in Organizational Leadership. When asked why he became involved in the Department of Leadership Studies, Jeff said, “Everything in life is a leadership experience. It is! Prove me wrong! I feel there is so much to unlock within our teams and organizations if we take a step back and normalize self-reflection with action, psychological safety, and failing fast.” Jeff can’t pick a favorite leadership course because each applies to everyday life. “These courses can support individuals to find their leadership identity – their voice – to solve problems creatively! That is something you can hold forever.” Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Jeff is now heavily involved in activities in Columbus, Ohio, where he attended Ohio State University. He is the president of the Scarlet & Gay LGBTQ Alumni Society, which raises thousands of dollars in student scholarships. Jeff is also a facilitator for the Buckeye Leadership Fellows Workshop and assistant conductor for the Clintonville Community College Band. With an undergraduate degree in computer science and engineering, his hobbies outside school include virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and working with new software tools. He also enjoys writing, studying foreign languages, and working with individuals on project management skills they can implement. Congratulations, Jeff!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT (SNU): YIYING (SERVANNA) WANG

Originally from Shenyang, China, Servanna Wang is in her second year at SNU, working towards a degree in international finance, something she has been interested in since she was a child. On campus, she is involved in the student union and works in the sports and entertainment department, where she enjoys planning and executing events and meeting new friends. Servanna decided to become involved in the Department of Leadership Studies because it is useful no matter what you choose to do in the future. “Since we do not live alone in this society, we should know how to get along with people and lead the team.” Thus far, Servanna’s favorite leadership course is LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behaviors because it has taught her theories about leadership and practical knowledge that is useful in the real world. Outside of school, Servanna’s hobbies include reading and traveling. “Reading books is a good way to gain knowledge and shape my character. There is a lot of valuable knowledge and interesting stories inside the book.... If we read only books, then the things we know are not three-dimensional enough. We need to experience what we may meet on the road.” Congratulations, Servanna!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT (SIAS): YIFAN (JAYDEN) YANG

Congratulations, Jayden!

Meet the October 2020 Student of the Month

VIRTUAL STUDENT: NICHOLAS LARMER

Originally from Dodge City, Kansas, Nicholas Larmer is the October Student of the Month. After transferring from Barton County Community College (BCCC), Nick is in his second year at Fort Hays and is working towards a Bachelor's degree in Technology Leadership with an emphasis on Technical Education. He aims to lead the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) program at BCCC. In Nick's community, he is a professional paramedic and firefighter and provides Emergency Medical Services to everybody in Ford County. Not only is this his career, but he also enjoys teaching others about EMS when he isn't on the job. On his days off, he teaches EMT courses at BCCC and coordinates free EMS conferences through Ford County Fire and EMS. Although it looked different this year due to COVID-19, this conference helps provide others with valuable EMS information from local experts.

Nick has also created his own YouTube channel, blog, and podcast and uses various social media platforms to share his knowledge on EMS ethics, practices, and leadership. You may find him riding his bike around Dodge City when he isn't creating through these outlets. His all-time favorite activity is spending time with his wife, who is expecting their first child. His wife constantly influences and challenges Nick to create, grow, and share his knowledge with others. When asked why he became involved in Leadership Studies, Nick said, "to say I chose the Department of Leadership Studies would almost be a lie; the Department of Leadership Studies chose me. We don't choose our mentors; our mentors choose us." Although he is not always in the spotlight, Nick feels he has always been in some leadership position. Leaders are everywhere creating change, even behind the scenes. Nick's father was the first to instill the value of leadership in him and demonstrated every day the importance of it, especially when he stepped into the role of Scoutmaster of Nick's Boy Scout Troop. Because of this, leadership has always been integrated into Nick's life in one way or another, and he is constantly using what he has learned through Leadership Studies in his day-to-day life and profession. Thus far, Nick's favorite course has been Leadership and Team Dynamics, taught by Dr. Lori Kniffin. Dr. Kniffin has created an environment that allows Nick to develop videos for discussion boards, instead of typing, for example. "She understands the individual's needs and cooperates with different learning styles." Nick always looks forward to the leadership courses he takes each semester and appreciates all the knowledge, experience, and encouragement he has gained from the Department of Leadership Studies. Congratulations, Nick!

MEET THE NOVEMBER 2020 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT: KIRA MESTL

Originally from Ogallala, Nebraska, Kira Mestl is our November On Campus Student of the Month. Kira is currently a junior majoring in leadership studies and is working on applying to the sonography program. At Fort Hays, Kira attends Encounter each week and is a member of the women's golf team. In her free time, she enjoys playing golf, spending time with family, and partaking in spontaneous activities with her friends. Having only joined the leadership department recently, Kira's favorite thing so far is the interaction between the professors and the students. She enjoys debating and having intellectual conversations over controversial subjects in class. The classes are very engaging, and they help to broaden her knowledge. Congratulations, Kira!

VIRTUAL STUDENT: NICOLE BRUNT

Nicole Brunt, our Virtual Student of the Month, is in her first year of working towards her master's in leadership studies and information analysis and communications. After wanting to go back to school for her master's for a while, she decided this last spring to start. Through Fort Hays, the program is completely online and affordable, which Nicole appreciates. Having only taken a few courses thus far, her favorite has been Qualitative Research Methods. The research process seemed intimidating, but the course has made it doable and Nicole has enjoyed reading through various articles and reports, as well as interacting with her professor. Nicole likes to spend her free time gardening, reading, working on crafts, and spending time with her family. Congratulations, Nicole!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT (SNU): LUYUAN (BILL) MIAO

In his second year at SNU, Bill is our International Student of the Month. Bill is majoring in finance and working towards his leadership studies certificate. Bill was involved in leading an online summer camp through Fort Hays over the summer. He enjoys basketball, fitness, and watching movies, when he is not reading or studying in a coffee shop. Bill's favorite class so far is LDRS 300, particularly the power and influence theories. Bill finds the close relation between leadership and finance particularly interesting and useful and will apply the relation to his future career in finance. Congratulations, Bill!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT (SIAS): YUQING (RACHEL) WANG

Rachel is our International Student of the Month. Rachel is in her third year at Sias and is double majoring in Organizational Leadership and Business Administration, hoping to one day get her MBA. Rachel enjoys watching movies, jogging with friends, and playing basketball and badminton. Rachel is involved with the World Academy, an organization promoting women's leadership. Rachel is particularly interested in women's leadership and how leadership can help her in her future career. Rachel's favorite leadership class so far has been Leadership and Personal Development because she was able to reflect on her past and current leadership experience and focus on her future leadership goals. Congratulations, Rachel!

Meet the December 2020 Student of the Month

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: BOREN (HOV) TAN

Living in Shenyang, China, Hov is our December Student of the Month. Working towards a degree in organizational leadership, as well as international economy and trade, Hov is in his second year at Fort Hays. Hov took the course introduction to leadership studies this semester and enjoyed learning about the advantages and disadvantages of different leadership styles. It changed his opinion about leadership, and he further understood its diversity. He chose to become involved in the leadership department because he thought it would help him as he plans for his future and potential career. He has learned many new things that he hadn't known before. Hov enjoys reading, taking photos, and playing sports like basketball and badminton in his free time. He also works with a company in Shanghai to help create video interviews and marketing that are shared with the public.

Congratulations, Hov!