Dear Friends:

Through the generosity of our donors to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences’ Dean’s Excellence Fund, we have supported the largest number of students from the fund to-date! In academic year 2016-17, we funded 22 students who applied their award toward conference travel to present research, study abroad, and high cost of living internship opportunities. I’m thrilled to announce that this met our goal for the academic year, as set in last year’s IMPACT piece!

The stories you see here highlight just some of the out-of-the-classroom learning opportunities from which our 22 students benefited. I am so thankful to those who’ve made these opportunities possible for our students, and I appreciate your support and trust in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. I look forward to another successful year of student funding and the impactful stories to follow!

Jerold L. Hale
Dean
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Communication major Hannah Star ’17 (right) and Cierra Seid ’17 (left) were awarded funding to travel to the Southern States Communication Association in Greenville, SC, to present their research at the association’s Undergraduate Honors Conference.

“I was immersed in a paper titled, ‘Telling Lies on the Stump: Ethics & the Presidential Election’, by a scholar-lawyer. Later, I would track this brilliant woman down in a hallway, and have an hour long conversation with her about her path between religion and law, a journey I am preparing for as an aspiring human rights lawyer.”

Victoria Rego ’17, English major

“Attending the APS annual convention was truly an amazing experience. Not only did I get to hear industrial/organizational psychologists present their work, inspiring me with ideas for my own future research, but I was able to present my own work. I left the convention feeling proud of my research and my ability to present research in front of fellow students, researchers, and professionals.”

Madeline Leibin (religious studies, philosophy, and international studies major) notes a memorable experience at the Southeastern Conference for the Study of Religion:

Junior psychology major Maisy Deans presented research at the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists conference in Asheville, NC.

“The conference was such a new and exciting experience for me, one that I will remember forever. It was especially amazing to meet with other aspiring psychologists and to discuss current research and future ideas.”

Devin McSween (left) with Dr. Anthony Bishara (right) at the Association for Psychological Science.

Victoria received funding to travel to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Memphis, Tennessee, where she presented her research on Sherlock Holmes and the curious phenomenon of people who travel to the sites that are prominently figured in the stories and books about the character.