



THE CITADEL

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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Note from the Director

Dear scholars and supporters of the DSP,

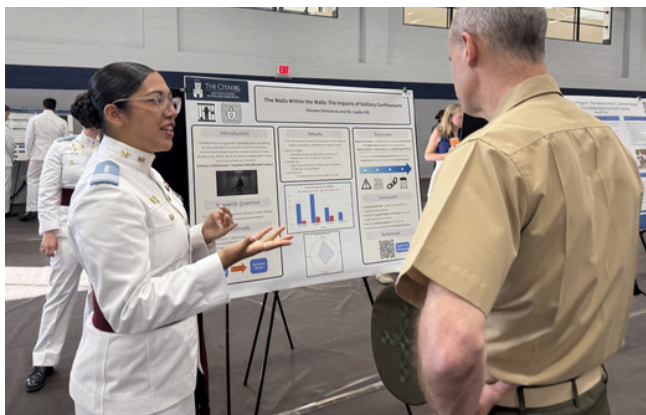
The spring semester presented many opportunities for members of The Citadel community to learn about scholars' research and celebrate their accomplishments. From poster presentations at Academic Excellence Day to formal presentations in the DSP Project Showcase, scholars discussed their projects and explained their relevance.

At our Spring Banquet, we honored our seniors, who received many awards at spring parades, convocation, and graduation. You can learn about these accolades and more in this issue. Alumni, mentors, and scholars, please continue to send updates; we want to know your latest news. This issue features our first alumni spotlight, and we look forward to a future DSP reunion.

With warm wishes and appreciation,

Lauren Rule Maxwell

Discussing Research at Academic Excellence Day

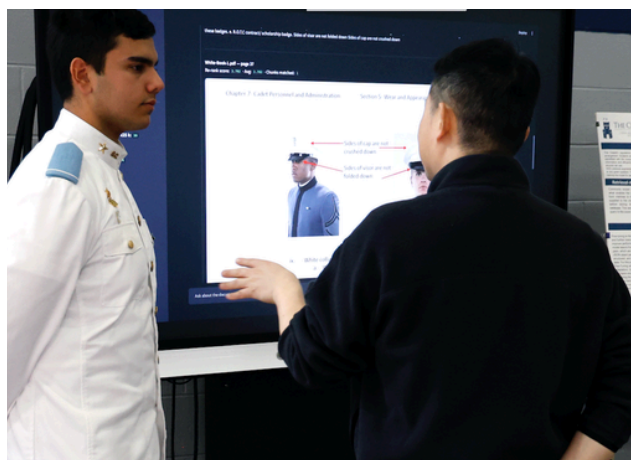
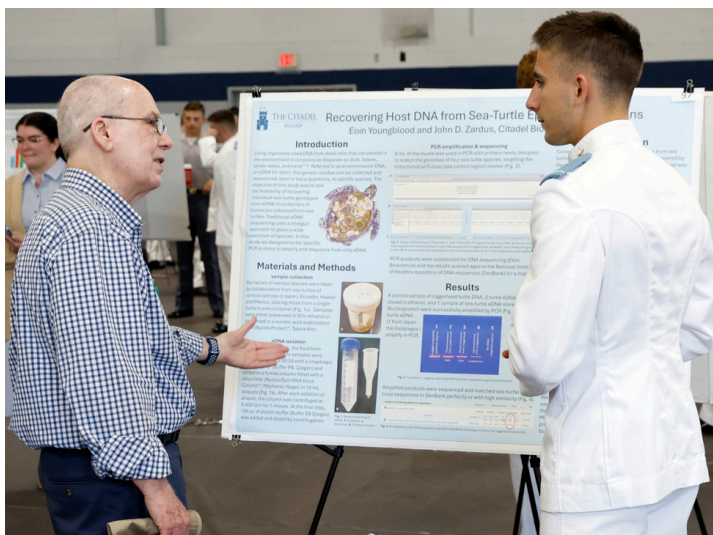


Senior scholars presented their projects at Academic Excellence Day on April 10 as part of this year's DSP Project class. We appreciate all who came to Deas Hall and talked with our presenters about their projects.

Doreen Ontiveros (pictured top left and advised by Dr. Leslie Hill), won first place for the SHSS/Business category for her poster on mental health, recidivism, and solitary confinement, a topic so timely it was just featured in a *Post and Courier* series. Olivia Liquori (advised by Dr. Kristen Hefner) was awarded third place for her poster on domestic violence outreach and education.

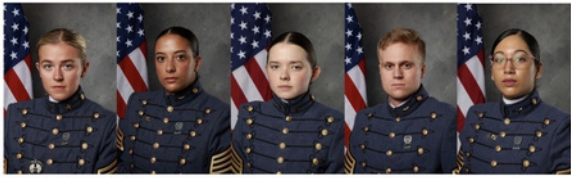


Sophomore Eoin Youngblood (bottom left, advised by Dr. John Zardus) received the first place Sigma Xi Award, which recognizes excellence in science or engineering research communication, for his poster on isolating sea turtle DNA from barnacles. Vitale Tillman (bottom right, also a sophomore) was on a team advised by Dr. Deepti Joshi whose work on the use of AI to help people better understand regulations earned the third place Sigma Xi Award.

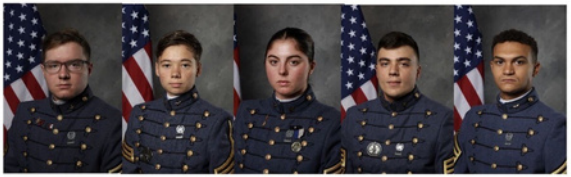


Seniors Shine in Project Showcase Presentations...

Senior Scholar Presenters



Lucy McArthur Adaya El-Sherif Meredith Reed David Ropp Doreen Ontiveros



Jacob Blaser Katerina Govorova Olivia Liquori Luke Murphy Noah Miller

On April 20, the DSP invited all members of The Citadel community to attend our senior scholars' presentations of their DSP projects in Capers Auditorium. There was a reception in the American Atrium outside the auditorium prior to the presentations. The scholars discussed their projects, which they have been developing since their sophomore years and examine some of the most pressing issues we face today. The scholars presented their findings, recommendations, and future project plans. If you missed it, you can view a video recording [here](#). Congratulations to the seniors for their outstanding presentations!

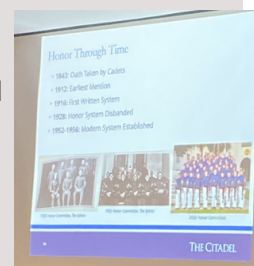


...and Shape Broader Conversations by Sharing Project Findings

Noah Miller led a panel session at the 2nd Annual Citadel/College of Charleston Advising Summit, held on February 27 in Bastin Hall. There he explained the role of the cadet Academic Team and made recommendations for improving advising at The Citadel, including creating a sophomore-level Academic Corporal position to foster high-impact practices among sophomore cadets.



Jake Blaser, Vice-Chair of Investigations for The Citadel Honor Court, acted on the findings of his DSP project to lead collaborative roundtable discussions open to all faculty and staff on April 23 and April 27. He shared how academic misconduct accusations are received and adjudicated within Honor hearings and answered questions about the process.



On March 24, retired Maj. Gen. Jami C. Shawley, U.S. Army Reserve, former director for defense policy and strategy and recent acting senior director for Africa for the National Security Council, met with Citadel groups who have traveled to Africa. Dr. Sarah Imam, who founded The Citadel Medical Camp in Kenya and serves as a DSP Mentor, met with Shawley alongside students who worked in the camp, including DSP scholars David Ropp, Banks Scarpa, Aidan Yampey, and Ashton Phillips. Shawley also met with Lucy McArthur, who discussed her DSP project on women's education in Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania and her plans to continue her research at the University of Cambridge next fall.

Adaya El-Sherif presented "Human Trafficking Cross-Agency Analysis," based on her DSP Project advised by Dr. Leslie Hill, to the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force on April 17.



Scholars in the News

On May 11, [Live 5 News](#) interviewed [Dr. Sarah Imam](#) about the unique hands-on opportunities that The Citadel Medical Camp in Kenya provides Citadel students. DSP sophomore Ashton Phillips was also interviewed and discussed how his experiences at the camp changed his Citadel and future career trajectory.



Sophomore Leonard Huxford was selected for the Louis S. Letellier Scholarship by The Civil Engineers Club of Charleston as part of the organization's 70th Anniversary Platinum Jubilee on May 7. Congratulations, Leonard!

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences' Frank Emerson, whom you might remember as the speaker at our fall dinner, recorded a podcast with Dr. Lauren Rule Maxwell, Lucy McArthur, and Olivia Liquori that discusses the Distinguished Scholars Program, research, and leadership. You can listen to that conversation and other compelling podcasts at [The Information Advantage](#) site.



THE INFORMATION ADVANTAGE

Spring Study Abroad and Site Visits



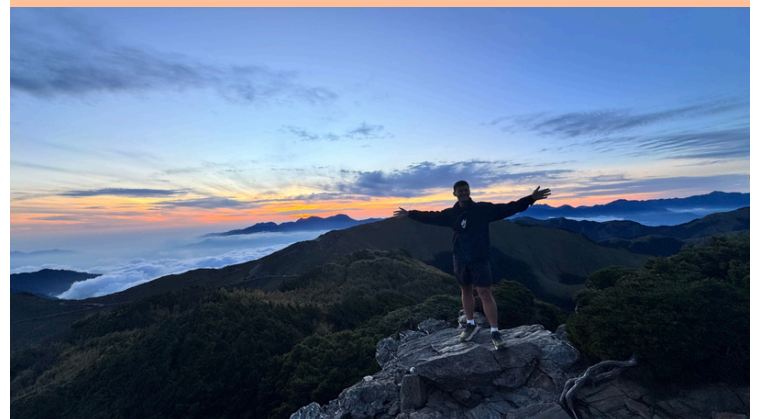
Sophomore Olivia Lewandowski interned this spring at the White House. “During my time at The White House, I had the wonderful opportunity to intern with the Office of Public Liaison,” she said, working to “connect external stakeholders with the White House to build relationships with public interest groups.” About the overall experience, Olivia explained, “I feel more prepared to enter my career field after The Citadel due to my experience at The White House.”



Chris Tindal, our newest DSP mentor, arranged for two of our scholars interested in sustainable energy and wind turbines, senior Meredith Reed and sophomore Theron Hull-Walton, to have a tour of the Dominion Energy Innovation Center in North Charleston on March 26.



On the other side of the Pacific, sophomore Anthony diSalvo attended the Republic of China Military Academy (ROCMA); he is the first Citadel cadet to do so: “For nearly six months, I lived at the Republic of China Military Academy in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, studying how Taiwan prepares future officers for a potential defensive war against China. I lived alongside cadets, interviewed officers and commanders, and spent many hours training with cadets as they prepared to become the future defense force of Taiwan. I found many who were patriotic and willing to sacrifice for their country. More than anything, Taiwan taught me that military academies do not simply teach cadets what to do. They shape the kind of officers a nation will depend on when a crisis finally comes.”



College Awards

Noah Miller and David Ropp Awarded Palmetto Medals

On March 21, seniors Noah Miller and David Ropp were awarded the Palmetto Medal, the highest honor the college awards for service to the college or the state, at the Corps Day parade.



Lucy McArthur and Olivia Liquori Receive Cincinnati and MacArthur Awards



Congratulations to Lucy McArthur and Olivia Liquori for receiving on February 13 two of the most prestigious senior awards: the Society of the Cincinnati Medal and the General Douglas MacArthur Cadet of the Year Award, respectively.

Numerous Awards for Scholars at Convocation

- **Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States Leadership Award**
- **Col. Floyd W. Brown Jr. Memorial Award**
- **Wade Hampton Saber**
Lucy McArthur
- **William Porcher Dubose Award**
Olivia Liquori
- **Commandant's Leadership Excellence Award**
David Ropp
- **Lt. Col. Leigh Hochreich Memorial Fund Award**
- **Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists Silver Bowl Award**
Katerina Govorova
- **Maj. William Marks Hutson Award**
Quentin Walsh
- **Col. Joseph E. Perkins Honor Committee Award**
- **Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award** (pictured right)
Jacob Blaser



Spring Banquet and Graduation

Our spring banquet on April 14 celebrated our seniors, who discussed their projects and shared plans for after graduation. Ellen Steinberg, director of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating council, gave the keynote speech on living with honor, fairness, and integrity, which resonated strongly with our seniors, who have demonstrated a strong commitment to these values.



Congratulations to our fabulous seniors! We are excited for your next chapters!



First Honor Graduate Olivia Liquori



Scholars Leading the Corps



For the third year in a row, a Distinguished Scholar is Regimental Commander of the Corps of Cadets. Congratulations, Banks Scarpa! He follows in the footsteps of Sam Wilson ('25) and David Ropp ('26). Connor Salch and Quentin Walsh will serve as 2nd and 3rd Battalion Commanders, respectively.

Alumni Spotlight: Ashlyn Howard ('24)



Ashlyn Howard served six years in the US Army Reserve, including an overseas deployment. She graduated summa cum laude as a Veteran student, earning a BSBA in Marketing & Business Development with a minor in English. She served as President of the Student Veterans Association and Vice President of Investor Relations for the Student Managed Investment Fund. In this first installment of the Alumni Spotlight, she discusses what she's doing now:

I currently work as a consulting marketer supporting Deloitte's alliance with ServiceNow, where I integrate marketing, sales, and strategic partnerships. I help Deloitte and ServiceNow go to market together through joint campaigns, shared solution positioning, and demand generation to drive business growth and revenue.

As a veteran student and Distinguished Scholar, I was exposed to many opportunities that expanded the way I thought about leadership and the world around me. Being able to travel abroad and study international business and taking challenging coursework encouraged an intellectual curiosity that broadened my perspective in ways that continue to influence my professional career today. I learned how to think critically and approach problems from multiple perspectives—skills I apply daily.

As time goes on, I hope to continue building upon the foundation by diving deeper into partnership marketing. Perhaps I might return to school to pursue a law degree or study communications. I'm excited to find out.

Save the Date

September 7, 2026 DSP Open House
3-5pm, Johnson Hagood Stadium Club Level
Drop-in for prospective scholars

October 7, 2026 Mentor Luncheon
11:30am-1:00pm, Johnson Hagood Stadium Club Level

November 17, 2026—DSP Fall Dinner
5-8pm, Magnolias, 185 East Bay Street