

# GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS



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Undergraduate Awards for  
Leadership, Service, and Scholarship



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## Undergraduate Awards for Leadership, Service, and Scholarship

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The Ginsberg Family Awards have a rich campus history, originating as the Meyerhoff Undergraduate Excellence Awards in 1993. They held this name for 26 years, distributing scholarships to hundreds of exemplary student leaders. In 2018, the Ginsberg family took on the awards in an effort to continue to recognize the impact of outstanding student leaders on the broader campus community. Created in honor of the late Dean of Students Paul Ginsberg (Dean of Students from 1970 – 1987), the Ginsberg Family Awards continue today in an effort to recognize and honor Paul's commitment to enhancing the student experience throughout his time as dean.

Each year, 25 undergraduate juniors and seniors across campus are recognized for their contributions in the areas of leadership, service, and scholarship. The awards are distributed by 24 campus units, demonstrating the broad-reaching impact these student leaders have had across the UW-Madison campus and community.

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## Student Affairs

### **Yogev Ben-Yitschak**

**Associated Students of Madison**

*Academic Major(s): Marketing; Digital Studies*

Yogev has been involved with ASM since his first semester on campus and has demonstrated a meaningful commitment to the organization ever since. Over the past four years he has held multiple leadership roles and has applied the grassroots organizing skills he learned to advocate on behalf of students many times and in many ways. He has been an intern, the ASM outreach director, the vice chair of Student Council, the outreach director for The Open Seat, an intern coordinator, and even a front desk receptionist. He consistently finds ways to use his relational skills to change policy, elevate the student voice, and mentor others. Yogev has worked on campaigns that will have a lasting impact on campus, including the recently passed Amnesty through Responsible Action legislation. It is unusual to have a student with an intense involvement with ASM for four years, but Yogev's commitment to ASM, and more importantly his commitment to his fellow students, has sustained him through various roles.

### **Michael Makowski**

**Center for Leadership & Involvement**

*Academic Major(s): German; Political Science*

As a graduating senior with a 3.3 GPA, Michael elevated and advanced CfLI's core value of "Intentional Learning Through Experience" by his broad and deep engagement with various organizations across the UW-Madison community. As a student director with the Adventure Learning Programs, Michael supported his peers as they developed effective leadership and community development workshops that spurred meaningful learning for groups on campus. Through his roles as a lead organizer with the Wisconsin Student Climate Action Coalition, a volunteer organizer with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, and a co-host of a political science podcast, Michael demonstrated his interest in generating robust debate and his capacity to mobilize the community to address challenges.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Student Affairs

#### **Emiliana Almanza Lopez**

##### **Center for the First-Year Experience**

*Academic Major(s): Sociology; Environmental Studies*

Emi has demonstrated commitment to student success and made numerous contributions to the Center for the First-Year Experience, campus, and local and global communities. As a CP125 co-instructor, member of BadgerCETE, and transfer student representative in the SOAR Wisconsin Experience video, Emi helped students transition smoothly to UW-Madison. Emi is also a strong social justice advocate. As social justice intern in the Multicultural Student Center, she created and delivered workshops and facilitated for the Social Justice Leadership Retreat, where students spent a weekend reflecting on their experience, power, and privilege. Additionally, Emi was essential in organizing the Student Inclusion Coalition, advocating for the wellbeing of marginalized students. Emi is passionate about environmental justice and dissecting how racial exclusion and environmentalism intersect and impact disadvantaged communities. In recognition of her outstanding work, Chancellor Blank nominated Emi as the 2019 Newman Civic Fellow, a national honor.

#### **Robin Mwai**

##### **Dean of Students Office**

*Academic Major(s): Rehabilitation Psychology*

Robin is a senior that has worked in the Dean of Students Office for three years. Robin has worked in a variety of roles in our office and has used her student voice to help our office continue to grow. Robin has done work around the Bias Response Process which included facilitating many presentations. Robin is the new member recruitment chair for the Wisconsin Alumni Student Board (WASB). Robin worked to ensure outreach and recruitment efforts expand to reach all students on campus. Robin was also a Rehab Psych intern for ABC for Health, a non-profit public interest law firm and health advocacy organization. Working on a year-long assignment with Wisconsin's Birth Cost Recovery policy, her role was to advocate against a policy with lawmakers and various stakeholders across our state. Robin is planning to move to New York City this summer after graduation.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Student Affairs

#### **Elijah Holmes**

##### **Gender & Sexuality Campus Center**

*Academic Major(s): Psychology*

Elijah is an incredibly involved Psychology major who plans to graduate in May 2021. In the last year alone, he has served as the first-year engagement intern at the Gender and Sexuality Campus Center and a house fellow at Sellery Hall for The Studio. His leadership has manifested in several ways including service on the board for the Black Cultural Center, an advocate for identity-based housing, member of the National Pan-Hellenic and Multicultural Greek Council Planning Committee through Fraternity and Sorority Life, as well as an events specialist and vice president of Phi Beta Sigma-Fraternity, Inc. As an extension of that leadership, Elijah started a mentorship program for young men of color whose families are facing housing insecurity with The Road Home Dane County. Now he is working on an expansion of those efforts with the Elver Park Community Center. When not involved in community-building activities, Elijah serves as a Youth Counselor for Briarpatch Youth Services.

#### **Yiding Wang**

##### **International Student Services**

*Academic Major(s): Genetics & Genomics; Italian*

Throughout their time at UW-Madison, Yiding has become very involved with Slow Food UW-Madison Student Organization. They acted as an intern and engaged in programs such as Family Dinner Night, Slow Food Cafe, and the Snacks with Scientists program where Yiding taught children about the connections between food and science. Yiding has also served as a research peer leader in WISCIENCE, assisting other Badgers be more successful in their research endeavors. As an international student, Yiding has also given back to the international community at UW-Madison serving both as a team leader with ISS BRIDGE and as an international student orientation assistant. Yiding's service to the community of Madison and the university is far reaching and they are very deserving of this award.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Student Affairs

#### **Katherine Reinemann**

##### **McBurney Disability Resource Center**

*Academic Major(s): Nursing; Cert. In Gender and Women's Studies*

Katherine has worked countless hours as a volunteer with the Rape Crisis Center and Goodman Community Center in Madison, providing counseling, health education, resources, and mentorship to those connected to her. She also knits baby blankets and hats in her spare time for an outreach project she started through Harambee Village Doulas. Through Harambee Village, Katherine also provides emotional support and pain-management to pregnant people during childbirth. Katherine shared that “though the blankets will be useful, I know that the most important resource I provide is the personal connection and a sense of caring that only a doula can provide.” Katherine plans to graduate this semester with a degree in Nursing and Certificate in Gender & Women's Studies.

#### **Shiloah Coley**

##### **Multicultural Student Center**

*Academic Major(s): Journalism, Cert. in Studio Art, African American Studies*

Shiloah has served as the Multicultural Student Center's Grant Administrator intern for three years, along with being the co-editor in-chief for the Black Voice, an online publication, and awarded the prestigious awards of the McNair Scholarship, and the Harry S. Truman Foundation Scholarship. While her academic and leadership achievements are more than impressive, her demeanor and character are her best qualities. Shiloah is humble about her talent as an artist even when she is asked to paint a mural or be the featured artist at the Black Cultural Center. She is hard-working and organized which allows her the time and capacity to make an impact in the issues she is passionate about, while also taking in all opportunities to learn and grow. Her commitment to the MSC was not only through her internship, but by also being an unsaid ambassador to all students of color looking for a place to belong. Her time and achievements at UW-Madison are just the beginning for her.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Student Affairs

#### **Alexandria Peetz**

##### **Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards**

*Academic Major(s): Management & Human Resources; Risk Management & Insurance*

Lexi has been a part of the Division of Student Life, now Student Affairs family since she began her career at UW-Madison in June of 2016. She is a student in the School of Business studying Management and Human Resources, and Risk Management and Insurance. Lexi has been a participant in the UW-Madison Global Health Study Abroad in Nepal, was the student coordinator for the Risk Management and Insurance Career Fair and has completed the Risk Management and Insurance Chartered Property Casual Underwriter certification program. Throughout her college career, Lexi has worked for Student Affairs in Human Resources, the Vice Chancellor's Office, Dean of Students, and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. She graduates in May 2020 and has secured a job at Epic starting in Summer 2020.

#### **Allison Dentice**

##### **Recreation & Wellbeing**

*Academic Major(s): Spanish, Cert. In Global Health*

Allison is an outstanding student and an even better person. She maintains a 3.88 GPA while majoring in Spanish with a Global Health certificate. Allison works in Recreation & Wellbeing as a facility supervisor and has been a Zamboni driver since 2017. Beyond work in the classroom and our facilities, she generously gives back through volunteerism. She participated in an alternative spring break in which she and others cleaned a shoreline, assisted children in a Ronald McDonald house in Columbia, and has contributed to the planning of the new Natatorium architectural and design. She also volunteers at the St. Vincent De Paul pharmacy.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Student Affairs

#### **Rachel Alsbury**

##### **University Health Services**

*Academic Major(s): Human Development & Family Studies; English*

Rachel has demonstrated leadership in various roles across campus at the nexus of student wellbeing and learning. While an undergraduate teaching fellow at the Center for the First-year Experience, Rachel mentored other fellows and supported first-year students' well-being during the transition to UW-Madison. Rachel also served as a house fellow in the Chadbourne Residence Hall. As an undergraduate intern with the Healthy Academics Initiative led by University Health Services' Prevention and Campus Health Initiatives, Rachel demonstrated leadership capacity as part of the team that developed the Healthy Academics Instructional Toolkit. Likewise, Rachel mentored other undergraduate students throughout the process of benchmarking best practices at peer institutions for supporting student health and wellbeing in academic contexts. Rachel's leadership, peer mentorship, analytic abilities, resourcefulness, kindness and commitment to improving student learning, health, and wellbeing made a lasting impact on the campus community.

#### **Levi Redlin**

##### **University Veteran Services**

*Academic Major(s): Computer Science; English; Mathematics*

Levi came to UW-Madison after serving in the U.S. Navy aboard a nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Virginia. Upon his arrival, Levi found a home with his fellow veterans in Student Veterans of America (SVA) while excelling academically in Math, English, and Computer Sciences. Levi is looking forward to a Spring 2022 graduation. As an officer in SVA, Levi has advocated for student veterans on campus, with UW-System, and at the Wisconsin State Capital. Levi has also successfully planned speaker events, a military ball, and social activities on behalf of UW-Madison students and student veterans. Most days Levi can be found studying in the SVA office, ready to welcome the next veteran or service member to UW.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Student Affairs

#### **Julia Gutman**

#### **Wisconsin Union**

*Academic Major(s): Social Welfare*

Julia Gutman is a sophomore majoring in Social Welfare. This academic year, Julia served as both the Food Recovery Network director of operations and the education coordinator with the newly established Social Justice Hub. In her education coordinator role, Julia developed the education program for the hub which included: dialogue-based workshops, 5-minute trainings, a high school leadership/social justice program, and a social justice comic strip. Throughout her involvement, she has also taken an active role in continuing to build her strengths as a social justice educator and completed the inaugural gAlpha Social Impact program and the Social Justice Leadership Retreat. Julia balances all her obligations well, shares her enthusiasm and passion freely, and is a role model within the Social Justice Hub intern team. Through her contributions to her community, she has created a social justice education program that will continue to serve the UW-Madison community far into the future.

### Schools and Colleges

#### **Grace Padgett**

##### **College of Agricultural & Life Sciences**

*Academic Major(s): Biology; Cert. In Global Health*

Grace is a D.C. Posse Scholar who is heavily involved in activities related to science, medicine, and public health. She has conducted research and independent projects in the Department of Biochemistry, the UW Population Health Institute, and the UW SMPH Health Innovation Program. She is passionate about increasing minority representation in science and medicine, social justice issues, and addressing health inequities. Her passions have led her to be the past president of AHANA-MAPS Pre-Health Society, a multicultural pre-health society. Grace also served as a resource navigator for the Resource Navigator Program, connecting patients with community resources to meet their needs. Grace is driven to help students, especially students of color, successfully transition and succeed in higher education, which led her to take active roles in CALS as a Peer Advisor and Ambassador.

#### **Gylf Forsberg**

##### **College of Engineering**

*Academic Major(s): Geological Engineering; Classical Humanities; Geology & Geophysics*

Gylf served as a student ambassador for the College of Engineering and was the student coordinator for Admitted Student Preview Days the past two years. With these responsibilities, he became the student representative in the college's Prospective Student Presentation Working Group and participated in the academic advisor search committee. Gylf was a peer advisor for SOAR for two summers and in his second year, served as a mentor and leader to the new SOAR Peer Advisors. He was instrumental in helping the college's peer advisors learn the ropes, and for setting a valuable tone of professionalism and inclusion. Gylf received the Office of Undergraduate Advising's Excellence in Peer Advising Award. Gylf worked for the Undergraduate Learning Center as a tutor and facilitated a PrEPS course. He also created a new student organization within the College of Engineering during his time on campus.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Schools and Colleges

#### **Luquant Singh**

##### **College of Letters & Science**

*Academic Major(s): Applied Math, Engineering & Physics*

During his time at UW, Luquant has been heavily involved in research and music alongside engagement activities on and off-campus. He is graduating with an interdisciplinary degree in Applied Math, Engineering, and Physics and returning to UW in the fall to begin an Electrical Engineering Ph.D. Utilizing the skills he has gained in teaching and service through the Center for Academic Excellence mentorship program, private clarinet lessons to local high school students, and community-based learning classes, Luquant has co-founded Project Tumugtog, a teaching residency for UW music students in the Philippines. His organization aims to implement equitable and culturally responsive music instruction. He has conducted plasma physics research both on-campus and at Princeton University and has presented his work at numerous national and international research conferences. Luquant has attended UW on an exclusive music performance scholarship, and he is active in the UW Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra.

#### **MaKayla Liebeck**

##### **College of Letters & Science**

*Academic Major(s): Social Work; Psychology*

For MaKayla, community service is not necessarily just the act of doing something without pay, it is an intention that you lead your life by regardless of the pay or lack thereof. A first-generation student, MaKayla came from a small hometown with very little diversity, not truly understanding the extent to which race shaped how people experienced the world. After taking her first ethnic studies course, her curiosity led her to a research assistant positions with the Social Kids Lab and the Prejudice and Intergroup Relations Lab (Drs. Shutts and Devine) to study how racial stereotypes form in children and how racial biases impact everyday life. MaKayla founded Live Free Madison providing services to students going through recovery creating substance-free events and also volunteers with Kids at Heart, creating spaces where the elderly and the youth can unite and interact with one another.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Schools and Colleges

#### **Kelly Giuliano**

##### **School of Education**

*Academic Major(s): Rehabilitation Psychology, Cert. In Dance Movement Therapy*

Kelly has embraced her UW experience through research and service on and off campus. She participated in several research labs related to early childhood learning, presenting at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and she was a member of several student organizations, including the Diverse OT. Beyond campus, Kelly volunteered in a variety of settings working with individuals with diverse abilities of all ages. Through this work, she has formed a deeper understanding of the varying capabilities and experiences of those with diverse abilities. She will be starting a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy program at University of Illinois-Chicago in the fall, hoping to focus her studies on socio-cultural contexts in providing therapeutic interventions for families with newborns with diverse needs. Kelly states “I am more in-touch with my assumptions and working to educate myself in the practice of cultural humility, so that I can more readily honor people’s context and culture, while remaining open to the infinite possibilities that may come from an interaction.

#### **Emma Brandenburg**

##### **School of Human Ecology**

*Academic Major(s): Retailing & Consumer Behavior, Cert. In Digital Studies; Cert. In Business; Cert. In Entrepreneurship*

Emma is a Retailing and Consumer Behavior student, also earning Digital Studies, Business, and Entrepreneurship certificates who will graduate in May 2020. She serves as the president of the Student Retail Association, mentored five YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund Case Competition winners and the National Retail Federation Student Challenge Runner Up team as student case competition coordinator for UW’s Kohl’s Center for Retailing, received the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund Semi-Finalist award twice and she volunteers with UW-Madison’s Chapter of Delight Ministries.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Schools and Colleges

#### **Amanda Johnson**

##### **School of Nursing**

*Academic Major(s): Nursing*

In her relatively short time on campus, Amanda has been a strong advocate and leader to her fellow students. Early on in her program, she recognized the need for support for second-degree nursing students who are often older, non-traditional students. She became a founding member and CEO of the Leadership Organization for Accelerated Students to provide additional opportunities of learning, leading, and networking to produce professional, knowledgeable future nurse leaders. Not only is Amanda an advocate for her fellow students, but also an advocate for her patients, actively listening to their concerns and advocating for their needs. She is heavily involved in MEDiC (free student run clinics that provide healthcare to underserved populations in Madison) as well as being a member in the School of Nursing Sustainability Project, which is a small group of students and faculty working to improve recycling and composting in the School of Nursing. Amanda has maintained excellent academics and is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau society for nursing students, alongside her leadership roles and volunteer commitments.

#### **Christopher Gitter**

##### **School of Pharmacy**

*Academic Major(s): Pharmacology & Toxicology, Cert. In Global Health; Cert. In Environmental Studies*

Chris is majoring in Pharmacology and Toxicology with certificates in Global Health and Environmental Studies and will be graduating in May 2020. As the UW-Madison Senior Class events director and a member of the Homecoming Committee, Chris has been an impactful leader in the campus community. He is also co-president of the campus Be the Match organization, which runs the largest international bone marrow donor registry. His service extends to the greater community as well through medical volunteering and serving as a mentor for homeless youth. Chris's ability to excel academically in a rigorous major while making significant leadership and service contributions is a remarkable achievement.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Schools and Colleges

#### **Bih Shi (Beatrice) Tan**

##### **Wisconsin School of Business**

*Academic Major(s): Actuarial Science; Risk Management & Insurance*

Beatrice has been involved with the Pres House since her first year on campus, serving as a council leader, a member of the board of directors, and a drummer during weekly worship services. After studying abroad for a semester in Rome, Beatrice has since been an International Programs peer advisor for the Wisconsin School of Business. In that role, she helps advise business students who are interested in studying abroad and presents information sessions to help promote opportunities and the benefits of studying abroad. Beatrice's care for the community is obvious from her role as a peer mentor for the Bradley Learning Community and through her service with the Badger Volunteer group. For 3 years, Beatrice has led a team of 6 members to volunteer regularly at an after-school program at Red Caboose Marquette Elementary School. There, she provided academic support for 30+ third to fifth grade students as they develop socially and emotionally.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Campus Units

#### Campus Units

##### **Vanessa Meneses**

##### **Division of Diversity, Equity and Educational Achievement**

*Academic Major(s): Psychology; Neurobiology; Cert. In Leadership*

Vanessa's career trajectory is to work with youth and young adults in a non-profit sector and pursue graduate study furthering her love for education and commitment to service. Vanessa is motivated, energetic, and a compassionate servant leader. She has served as her class co-chair, current chair of the PKS Big Sibling Initiative Steering Committee, and a big sibling to incoming freshmen. Vanessa's current program advisor, also affirms her candidacy with the statement: "She has proven herself to be not only a leader on the UW campus, but also in the larger Madison community. She is a regular volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House, Riverfood Pantry, Centro Hispano, as well as serving as a volunteer Spanish tutor for area middle and high school students... During her four years at the university, Vanessa has exemplified the tenets of the Mercile J. Lee Scholars program: excellence through scholarship, leadership and service."

##### **Anusha Naik**

##### **Morgridge Center for Public Service**

*Academic Major(s): Molecular Biology; Anthropology; Cert. In African Studies*

Anusha is a compassionate student leader and scholar who has demonstrated a commitment to community and service throughout her academic career. During her time at UW-Madison, Anusha volunteered for the Community Health Volunteers of Madison. She also volunteered regularly at the Boys and Girls Club, Wingra Family Medical Center and the Hancock Center for Dance Movement Therapy. She helped to start a new service program to address the widespread food insecurity in Madison, and even took her community service abroad traveling to Ghana as a community health outreach intern. Anusha served in campus leadership roles for the India Students Association, Community Health Volunteers of Madison, and Women in Science and Engineering leadership community. She currently serves as the engagement preparations student intern at the Morgridge Center for Public Service.

## 2020 GINSBERG FAMILY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Campus Units

#### **Ariel Laxo**

##### **University Housing**

*Academic Major(s): English Language & Linguistics, Cert. In Teaching English*

Ariel Laxo is a senior, graduating this spring with a major in English Language and Linguistics and a certificate in Teaching English to students of other languages. During her time on campus, she has been involved with University Housing in several ways, including work with dining, custodial services, and a residential learning community, where she was involved as a peer mentor and committee planning member. She has also volunteered as a conversational english tutor with GUTS. She has spent the better part of three years with University Apartments as a project assistant and administrative support, working directly with residents and their concerns, as well as working with the larger team to support the entire apartments community. Ariel has committed to spending the next academic year in service with AmeriCorps working in middle schools, and then plans to move abroad to pursue a career in international english teaching.

## THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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It is no small feat to support an awards program that is as far-reaching and impactful as the Ginsberg Family Awards. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Ginsberg family, who continue to advance and enhance the student experience at UW-Madison.

*“Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great state University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone truth can be found.”*

*-UW President Charles Kendall Adams (1894)*



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