



November 2011

The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence

Philipp Kraemer

University of Kentucky, pjkrae00@email.uky.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kaleidoscope>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Kraemer, Philipp (2010) "The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence," *Kaleidoscope*: Vol. 9, Article 12.

Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kaleidoscope/vol9/iss1/12>

This The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence is brought to you for free and open access by the The Office of Undergraduate Research at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kaleidoscope by an authorized editor of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@sv.uky.edu.

Spotlight On **The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence**

Director, Phil Kraemer, PhD.

Every top-twenty university has, as a fundamental component, an outstanding undergraduate program. At the University of Kentucky, The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence is not only the symbol, but the embodiment, of its commitment to the finest undergraduate education. The Chellgren Center embraces a comprehensive array of teaching and research programs, professors, and services designed to enhance, develop, foster, and deliver the exceptional undergraduate experience that is one of the major components of the University's mission.

Chellgren Fellows Program

The Chellgren Fellows Program is for students with exceptional academic potential and aspirations who are eager to participate in a special learning community designed to cultivate extraordinary achievement. Chellgren Fellows (Chellos) are students who have the potential not only to excel at UK but also to compete successfully for the highest honors and awards within and outside of the University. The learning community consists of the collaborative interactions among students, faculty, and staff that create an intellectually stimulating environment, nurture high academic aspirations, and foster scholarly and personal development reflective of undergraduate excellence. Each spring, a new class of Chellgren Undergraduate Fellows is selected, while returning fellows serve as models and mentors to incoming fellows. Each fall, the newly selected Chellos engage in a major scholarly creative or research project in Methods of Scholarly Inquiry in which they learn and employ advanced techniques in their own projects.



Mentoring

Outstanding faculty from across campus serve as individual mentors for the Chellos as they engage in their scholarly projects. Through regular meetings and conversations, mentors help students develop strategies for engaging in the intellectual life of the University with an emphasis on opportunities, such as service learning experiences, internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, community service, and leadership opportunities. Mentors may elect to invite students to participate in sessions with

their papers or planned projects and attend scholarly talks. Mentors help Chellos identify external scholarship and develop skills used to acquire these awards (e.g., writing personal statements, successful interviewing).

The Chellgren Center Community Experience

The learning community consists of Fellows, faculty mentors, and professional staff affiliated with the Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence, all working together to make the Chellos' undergraduate experience one of an exceptionally high standard.

Chellos are expected to attend regular meetings with mentors and peers, as well as other pertinent events organized by the Center such as lectures at local colleges and universities, musical performances on and off campus, and art exhibits. At regularly scheduled meetings, Chellos learn about special educational programs and opportunities such as undergraduate research experiences, education abroad, internships, and volunteer activities.

The Chellgren Fellows Service Learning Project

To help extend learning to the real world and foster responsible citizenship, each Chellgren Fellow participates in an annual service learning project or projects designed by the Fellows themselves with guidance from faculty affiliated with the Chellgren Center.

Selection Process and Timeline

Chellos are accepted through a competitive application process. Students are eligible to apply to the program after their first semester at UK. Applicants must have a 3.75 GPA or above. A committee of faculty evaluates and selects Chellos based on the following criteria:

- Academic credentials and extracurricular activities from junior year in high school
- Academic performance at UK (GPA, course selections, extracurricular activities)
- Essays completed as part of the application
- Letters of recommendation

Chellgren Center Highlights from 2009-2010

On the following pages, several of the highlights of Chellgren Center-associated programs during the previous academic year are described. First, members of the third cohort of Chelgren Undergraduate Fellows provide abstracts of their scholarly inquires. Many students relate their research through programs offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research (ie: Beckman Scholars Program, summer research and creativity awards, travel grants, Oswald Research and Creativity Program, etcetera).



Paul W. Chellgren

The benefactors of The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence are Paul W. Chellgren and his family. A UK

graduate, Mr. Chellgren was an Honors Program student, a star intercollegiate debater, and President of the Student Body his senior year. He subsequently earned a Harvard MBA and D.D.E from Oxford University, where he has been named an Honorary Fellow. In addition to a celebrated career in business, one that included service as the CEO of Ashland Inc., Mr. Chellgren has been an active UK alumnus, having served for eleven years on the UK Board of Trustees. With the generous gift from Mr. Chellgren and his family, the University of Kentucky established the Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

