



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association

Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Election

Candidates for the 2026 Board of Governors

Voting begins on **Tues, 9 June 2026** and ends on **Tues., 23 June 2026 at 11:59 P.M. Eastern**

Vote for no more than three (3) candidates

Gregory Wells Johnson

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)

2024, Doctor of Education Educational Studies

2005, M.A. Educational Administration

1997, B.S. Integrated Social Studies Education

University Honors Program



Bio:

I am a three-time graduate of The Ohio State University. My oldest graduated from OSU in 2022 and 2024. My second child graduated from OSU on May 10th of this year. My youngest recently finished her freshman year at OSU. All three were or are involved in Mount Scholars. I have served as a HS principal at West Liberty-Salem Schools in Ohio for 21 years. Additionally, I am a founding member of the NASSP Principal Recovery Network that unifies principals who have experienced school shootings. I serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Secondary School Principals which represents over 27,000 members nationwide. I currently serve on Ohio State's Parent and Family Roundtable, sponsored by the Office of Parent and Family Relations. I believe in the power of giving back and I have personally witnessed the positive impacts of the honors and scholars program. My experience as an honors student and resident of Taylor Tower were formative as an undergraduate student. As a parent, I have observed my three children pour themselves into the Mount Leadership Society Scholars Program. Mount has been fundamental in helping all three develop in the areas of service and leadership and the relationships that they have formed in Mount represent what is at the core of being a Buckeye - the idea of paying it forward and the understanding that we are better together.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

I was a member of the honors program during my four years at Ohio State from 1993-1997 and I found the experience rewarding. But as a parent, I have been truly amazed to see how the Mount Scholars program has shaped and influenced my three children. Mount has been one of the most impactful and influential forces on each of their lives during their years at OSU. The leadership skills and experiences that they gained from Mount have better prepared them to be contributing service-oriented members of their future communities. But it's the relationships and friendships that they cherish the most and that have impacted me the most as a parent. They have made life-long friends thanks to the scholars program at Ohio State. As I have served on Ohio State's Parent and Family Roundtable this last year, I have found myself praising the Honors and Scholars Program over and over. It is this deep appreciation for how the Honors and Scholars Program impacts the lives of students that motivates me to express interest in joining the board of governors.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

I have been a high school principal for twenty-one years at the same school. This has given me the opportunity to become deeply engrained in a school community and to build strong relationships with teachers, students, and families. I feel like this gives me a unique perspective and insight into the minds and lives of the first-year students at OSU as a very high percentage of them are recent high school graduates. Additionally, for the last two years, I have served on the board of directors for a national organization of secondary school leaders. The National Association of Secondary School Principals will become the National Principals Association on July 1 as we open our doors to PK-5 principals as well. Being a board member has given me a completely new perspective as I have learned to occupy the space of governance and not the management space. As a governing board we focus on board policies, fiduciary oversight and accountability, and setting the strategic direction for our organization. But we do not focus on the management tasks of implementing those strategies and executing the day-to-day operations of the organization. I feel like this experience and understanding would serve me well on this board.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

If elected to the board of governors, I would want to continue with the board's focus on enhancing the academic, personal, and professional development of Ohio State Students - specifically those in the Honors and Scholars program. My greatest areas of interest are leadership development and community service and engagement, and my goal would be to expand and maximize opportunities to develop students in these two areas. One specific goal would be to continue to encourage the growth of the Honors and Scholars program with the introduction of new scholars programs to give more students a living-learning community such as the Mount Scholars community that has so enriched the lives of my children. Additionally, it would be my goal to break down any barriers to provide more access to Honors and Scholars program as all students deserve to belong to caring organization that priorities academic, personal, and professional growth and development with an emphasis on serving and engaging with their community.

Taylor Koon

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)

2016, B.A. in Communication Analysis & Practice

2026, M.A. in Educational Policy

University Scholars Program: Humanities Scholars



Bio:

Taylor Koon is a higher education professional specializing in student employment, supervisor development, and campus program design. A proud Double Buckeye, Taylor earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from The Ohio State University, where she now serves as a SEE Senior Specialist. In this role, she leads initiatives that strengthen belonging, build student confidence, and equip supervisors with the tools to create equitable, growth-oriented work environments. Her work blends research-informed practice with accessible, student-friendly communication, translating complex ideas into clear, actionable resources that support both learning and organizational effectiveness.

Taylor is known for designing programs that are inclusive, visually engaging, and grounded in practical impact. Recent projects include developing structural models for on-campus internship programs, creating frameworks that help students connect their on-campus employment to tangible transferable skills, and crafting communication channels that help teams collaborate with clarity and care. With strengths in interpersonal communication, benchmarking, and narrative-driven resource design, Taylor brings a rare combination of analytical precision and creative warmth to her work.

Beyond her professional role, Taylor is committed to building communities where students and colleagues feel seen, supported, and empowered. She is energized by thoughtful collaboration, creative solutions to complex problems, and designing experiences (whether events, resources, or learning moments) that make people feel welcomed and capable.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

I am applying to join the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors because I care deeply about student development and believe in the transformative power of a supportive, empowering college experience. My own time in Honors and Scholars shaped my early years at Ohio State; it gave me community, confidence, and a space where I felt safe to explore, try new things, and learn through both success and failure. That foundation continues to influence the way I show up in my work and in the ways I support students today. As a higher education professional focused on student employment, supervisor development, and campus program design, I see every day how meaningful it is when students feel connected, capable, and encouraged to grow. I want to bring that perspective to the Board of Governors and contribute to initiatives that strengthen belonging, expand access to

enriching experiences, and help students see themselves as active agents in their own learning. I am particularly interested in supporting programs that help students translate their academic and co-curricular experiences into confidence, clarity, and long-term success. Serving on the Board would allow me to give back to a community that shaped me, while helping create pathways for future Buckeyes to feel seen, supported, and empowered throughout their time at Ohio State.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

I would bring a blend of student-centered program design, strategic communication, and collaborative leadership experience to the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors. In my role at Ohio State, I design and implement initiatives that strengthen belonging, build student confidence, and help supervisors create equitable, growth-oriented environments. This work has equipped me with a deep understanding of how students develop, what they need to thrive, and how to translate those needs into programs that are both meaningful and sustainable. I have extensive experience developing frameworks, resources, and communication channels that make complex ideas accessible to diverse audiences. Whether I am building structural models for on-campus internship programs, crafting narrative-driven materials for stakeholders, or guiding students in articulating their transferable skills, I prioritize clarity, inclusivity, and practical impact. These skills directly support the Board's goals of enhancing student engagement, strengthening alumni connections, and advancing the mission of Honors and Scholars. I also bring a collaborative, community-minded approach. I value thoughtful partnership, creative problem-solving, and designing experiences that make people feel welcomed and capable. As an alumna who benefited deeply from the support and community Honors and Scholars provided, I am committed to contributing my expertise to help future students feel similarly empowered.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

If elected to the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors, my goals would center on strengthening belonging, expanding access to meaningful experiences, and deepening the connection between alumni and current students. I want to help create pathways that allow students to feel supported, confident, and empowered throughout their time in Honors and Scholars, just as I did. One of my primary goals would be to enhance opportunities for students to translate their academic, co-curricular, and experiential learning into a strong sense of purpose and direction. With my background in student employment and program design, I would work to develop initiatives that help students articulate their strengths, build transferable skills, and feel prepared for life beyond Ohio State. I would also prioritize building community across class years and identities. This includes supporting events and programs that foster connection, mentorship, and shared learning between alumni and current students. I believe that when students see alumni who once stood where they stand now, it expands their sense of what is possible. Finally, I would aim to strengthen communication channels that make the Honors and Scholars experience feel accessible, inclusive, and welcoming. Whether through storytelling, resource design, or collaborative programming, I want to help ensure that every student feels seen, supported, and capable of thriving.

Timothea Garland Proctor Letson

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)
2000, B.A. in Political Science

University Honors Program



Bio:

Timothea Letson is the Deputy General Counsel at Compass, a leading tech-enabled real estate brokerage. Acting as a strategic executive partner, she currently directs Legal's support of Corporate Strategy, leads Government Affairs, and oversees Legal Operations. Over her eight-year tenure, Timothea has played a pivotal role in the company's growth, including advising on Compass's 2021 IPO and serving as Interim Co-General Counsel. Prior to joining Compass, Timothea worked at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in their Employment Group and as a Litigation Associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. She has also worked on Facebook's and Barclays's in-house legal teams. Timothea earned a BA in Political Science from The Ohio State University and a JD from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (Go Big 10!). Before attending law school, Timothea was a Congressional Finance Director, working on campaigns in Oregon, Washington DC and South Dakota. She and her husband currently reside in Brooklyn where they are raising their two sons.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

My interest in joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors is deeply rooted in my gratitude for the opportunities The Ohio State University provided me. My time at Ohio State, and the Honors Program more specifically, was instrumental foundational experience that set me up for both academic and professional success. The financial support I received through scholarships— from the Honors College and other university and private sources—allowed me to more fully focus on my education. And while I certainly did not come out of college debt-free, my student loans were manageable and I was able to make job choices based on interest rather than concerns of crushing debt. Beyond the crucial financial assistance, the tremendous honors courses I was privileged to take challenged me intellectually and fostered a rigorous, engaging environment. Equally important were the lifelong friendships I forged within the Honors community, which remain an invaluable part of my life today. Having lived and built my career in New York City for the past 20 years, I am eager to reconnect with the university and the program that gave me so much. I want to give back by supporting the Honors Program's mission, ensuring that current and future students have access to the same transformative experiences and supportive community that shaped my own trajectory. Joining the Board of Governors would be a privilege, allowing me to leverage my professional experience to help champion and sustain the exceptional standard of the OSU Honors and Scholars experience.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

I would bring a unique blend of executive leadership, corporate governance, and early-career fundraising experience to the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors. Now in my eighth year at Compass, I serve as a strategic partner to members of our executive leadership team and work closely with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors. Having advised on our 2021 IPO and currently directing Legal's support of Corporate Strategy and Government Affairs, I am deeply familiar with board dynamics, strategic planning, and corporate governance. I can leverage this executive experience to help the Board refine its strategic objectives, navigate organizational challenges, and ensure effective governance. Additionally, my role overseeing Legal Operations requires building efficient processes and scaling programs—skills directly applicable to expanding the Society's alumni programming, networking events, and mentorship initiatives. Finally, before entering the legal field, I served as a Congressional Finance Director for campaigns across the country. This background in fundraising, donor relations, and advocacy equips me to strategically support the Board's mission of growing scholarship endowments and driving alumni engagement. Throughout my career—from Big Law to in-house roles at major tech companies—I have learned how to collaborate across diverse teams to achieve ambitious goals. I would be honored to apply this toolkit of legal, operational, and development skills to advance the mission of the Honors and Scholars programs.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

If elected to the Board of Governors, my overarching goal is to ensure the Honors and Scholars programs continue to provide the transformative opportunities I experienced, while expanding the society's reach and impact. Specifically, I would focus on three key areas: 1. Expanding Regional Mentorship and Networking: Having built my legal and executive career in New York City over the last two decades, I understand the immense value of a strong alumni network in major markets outside of Ohio. My goal is to help strengthen regional alumni connections, creating robust mentorship pipelines that link current students and recent graduates with established alumni in top-tier industries nationwide. 2. Enhancing Scholarship Initiatives: The financial support I received at Ohio State was foundational to my trajectory. I want to actively support the Board's development efforts, drawing on my background in campaign finance to provide strategic input, guidance, and advocacy. My goal is to help champion scholarship endowments so that the Honors and Scholars experience remains accessible to exceptional students, regardless of financial barriers. 3. Optimizing Board Operations and Governance: As the Alumni Society scales its programming, efficient infrastructure is critical. I plan to leverage my experience overseeing Legal Operations and advising on corporate governance at Compass to help the Board streamline its internal processes, execute strategic initiatives effectively, and ensure strong alignment with the university's broader objectives. Ultimately, I want to help build a more connected, well-funded, and strategically sound Honors and Scholars Alumni Society.

Marissa Ann Ring

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)
2009, B.A.

University Honors Program



Bio:

Marissa Ring is a strategic leader in the education nonprofit sector, currently serving as Vice President of Strategy and Operations at Teach For America. In this role, she leads national recruitment and operational strategy to mobilize top college graduates to begin their careers in education and expand opportunities for students in underserved communities. Marissa has spent more than 15 years with Teach For America, beginning as a corps member and secondary English teacher in Los Angeles. She has held a range of leadership roles across recruitment, talent strategy, and operations, developing deep expertise in strategic planning, team leadership, and organizational effectiveness. She holds a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's degree from Loyola Marymount University. As an alumna of Ohio State's Honors Program and a Morrill Scholar, she is deeply committed to the transformative power of higher education and community. Marissa also serves on the board of Reach University, where she contributes to advancing innovative pathways into the teaching profession through nonprofit governance and strategic oversight. Marissa lives with her husband, two daughters, and a chihuahua in Victorian Village.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

The Honors Program at The Ohio State University profoundly shaped the trajectory of my life. I came to Ohio State from a small, rural community in Appalachian Ohio. When I arrived, the Bradley Hall community both welcomed me and challenged me academically. The friendships I built there remain among my closest today; many of us stayed in or returned to Columbus and we have stayed closely connected. The Honors Program's impact has extended far past graduation. Through an Honors newsletter, I discovered Teach For America—an organization I first engaged with as an undergraduate intern and have now called my professional home for nearly 20 years. And, throughout my career, I have often called upon Honors Program peers to talk through challenges and next steps in our professional lives. Now that I have returned to Columbus long-term (I live just a mile from campus), I feel a deep responsibility to give back to the program that has given me so much. I would be honored to serve on the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors, contributing to both the academic and community-building experiences of current students and alumni. I firmly believe that strong Honors and Scholars Programs are essential to attracting and developing talented, purpose-

driven students who go on to lead impactful careers—many of them here in Ohio. I am eager to play a role in the Board's work to develop these Programs that help shape the next generation of leaders.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

As Vice President of Strategy and Operations for Teach For America's Recruitment Team, I design and lead national strategies to recruit top college graduates to teach in low-income schools. Through this work, I have developed skills to be an impactful member of the Board: Strategic planning and vision setting: I lead our team's strategic planning process, guiding diverse stakeholders toward a shared vision and setting clear, actionable priorities. Team leadership and culture building: Over the past decade, I have led teams with collaborative and high-performing work environments. Event planning and engagement: I bring experience coordinating a wide range of events—from large-scale national virtual experiences and in-person conferences to smaller, more intimate gatherings such as panels or community dinners. Innovation and technology: As AI reshapes the workforce, I am actively exploring how to leverage these tools to increase efficiency and free up capacity for more human-centered, high-impact work. Additionally, I have served on the board of a nonprofit university for five years. I have a strong foundation in board governance, including strategic oversight, fiduciary responsibilities, and effective collaboration. Through my work with Teach For America, I know how leading colleges and universities recruit, support, and retain students. I would bring these national insights to ensure the Honors and Scholars Programs continue to offer a best-in-class experience. Finally, as a Morrill Scholar alumna working on educational equity, I would bring a focus on inclusivity. I am committed to ensuring accessibility for all students within a supportive university community.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

If elected to the Board of Governors, my initial priority would be to listen, learn, and build strong relationships. Specifically, I would focus on developing meaningful partnerships with fellow board members to better understand their perspectives and areas of expertise, while also deepening my understanding of the current priorities and vision of Honors and Scholars students, alumni, and university leadership. Building on that foundation, I would be focused on advancing several key goals: -Elevate the visibility and value of the Honors and Scholars Program: Ensure that prospective students view Ohio State as a premier academic destination in large part because of the strength, community, and opportunities provided by the Honors and Scholars experience. -Enhance student outcomes and experience: Support initiatives that deepen student engagement, strengthen community, and expand access to academic, leadership, and career opportunities—ultimately leading to stronger career trajectories and long-term success. -Strengthen alumni connection and engagement: Foster a vibrant, committed alumni network that actively gives back through mentorship, programming, and philanthropy, reinforcing a lifelong connection to the program. -Advance fundraising and long-term sustainability: Contribute to efforts that secure the resources necessary to sustain and grow the program, ensuring it can continue to provide transformative experiences for future students. Overall, my goal would be to help ensure that the Honors and Scholars Program not only maintains its excellence but continues to evolve as a best-in-class model—one that attracts exceptional students, supports them holistically, and cultivates leaders who will make meaningful contributions in Ohio and beyond.

Nicolla Renee Ross

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)
1993, M.S. in Human Ecology
1991, B.A. in Communication

University Honors Program



Bio:

As a proud Ohio State alum who earned a full academic scholarship and was inducted into three honor societies, I carry the Honors & Scholars experience as a defining part of my identity. It shaped my intellectual curiosity, my commitment to service, and my belief that leadership is both a responsibility and a privilege. Today, I serve as an entrepreneur, Founder, CEO, transformational coach, and consultant, guiding leaders and mission driven organizations through complex transformation, strategic execution, and culture building. My career spans healthcare, corporate, and nonprofit sectors, including serving as a Vice President of Health Strategies for the American Heart Association and as Founder of One Spirit LLC, where I support leaders in aligning purpose, performance, and well being. I bring more than 18 years of experience advancing population health, cross sector collaboration, and enterprise level execution. My work is grounded in values of integrity, community, and human centered leadership—principles shaped during my time as an Honors student. I remain deeply motivated to contribute to elevating and strengthening the Buckeye community. I am passionate about contributing my strategic expertise, board leadership experience, and commitment to service to the Honors & Scholars Alumni Society. I believe in the power of this community to shape future leaders, foster belonging, and create pathways for students to thrive. I am honored to give back to the program that helped shape the leader I am today.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

My interest in joining the Honors & Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors is rooted in gratitude, identity, and purpose. As a full scholarship Buckeye and Honors alum, Ohio State was not just where I earned a degree—it was where I learned to lead, to question boldly, and to serve with intention. Becoming a Buckeye expanded my world, connected me with mentors who saw my potential, and affirmed my belief that academic rigor, community, and character are inseparable. Today, I feel called to reinvest my experience back into the community that invested in me. I want to help strengthen the Honors & Scholars ecosystem so that more deserving students can access the kind of transformative opportunities that shaped my life. I am drawn to this board because its mission aligns with my own: advancing education, fostering professional development, building community, and expanding philanthropic engagement. I believe deeply in cultivating environments where students feel seen, supported, and empowered to lead with authenticity. Serving on this board would allow me to bring my strategic leadership, cross sector experience, and passion for human centered development to a

community I care about. I want to help steward the next generation of Buckeye leaders and ensure the Honors & Scholars experience remains a catalyst for excellence, belonging, and impact.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

If elected, I would bring a combination of executive leadership and mission driven experience that directly strengthens the board's capacity to serve students and alumni. My background includes more than 18 years leading organizational transformation, strategy execution, and cross functional collaboration across healthcare, corporate, and nonprofit sectors. I have deep experience in governance, strategic planning, operational excellence, and building high performing teams. I bring board leadership experience from multiple vantage points—from board development and management as a senior executive with the American Heart Association, to serving on nonprofit boards, to founding nonprofit organizations where I helped establish the vision, mission, brand, organizational structure, and pathways to measurable impact. These experiences taught me how to build sustainable systems, mobilize stakeholders, and translate vision into outcomes—skills directly applicable to the Honors & Scholars Alumni Society. I also bring strengths in coaching, facilitation, and community building—capabilities essential for engaging alumni, supporting students, and strengthening the Society's reach and relevance. I offer not only professional expertise but authentic connection and a deep commitment to service. I would contribute strategic insight, operational discipline, and a values driven approach to help the board thrive.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

If elected, my goals would center on strengthening community, expanding opportunity, and elevating the Honors & Scholars legacy. First, I would focus on building deeper alumni engagement by creating meaningful pathways for alumni to mentor, support, and connect with current students. I believe in cultivating a multigenerational network where students feel supported and alumni feel valued. Second, I would champion initiatives that expand access to leadership development, professional growth, and experiential learning to broaden the students' vision of what is possible for them to achieve and increase connections to those who can help them achieve it. Third, I would support the board in enhancing strategic planning, operational clarity, and program execution. My background in organizational systems design and strategy execution positions me to help strengthen processes, improve collaboration, and ensure that programming is impactful and sustainable. Finally, I would work to elevate the Society's visibility and philanthropic engagement by aligning storytelling, alumni outreach, and mission-driven initiatives. I want the Honors & Scholars community to feel energized, connected, and proud of the legacy we are building together. My overarching goal is simple: to help create an Honors & Scholars experience that is as transformative for future students as it was for me—one rooted in excellence, belonging, and purpose.

Larry Shagrin

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)
1999, B.S. in Accounting

University Honors Program



Bio:

Originally from Beachwood, OH outside of Cleveland; Graduated Summa Cum Laude with Distinction from the Honors Accounting program (Prof. Burns); three years investment banking in NYC; Wharton School, Univ of Pennsylvania MBA '95; Private Equity post grad to current - William Blair Capital Partners ('95-'03), Brockway Moran & Partners ('03-'18); Founder Millpond Equity Partners ('16-current) (all lower middle market control investing); Married, three children (29, 27, 25); Reside in South Florida.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

I will always be grateful for Ohio State and the Honors program. I would not be where I am today without the excellent professors and talented classmates with whom I was fortunate to learn from. The genuine interest in my education and future is something I will never forget, and it would be an honor to serve on the Alumni Board of Governors.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

I have over thirty years of professional experience as an investor, operational support partner, board member, and entrepreneur providing insight into strategic planning, resource allocation, leadership, careers, and other disciplines that will help me provide guidance to the Board. I have specifically invested in over 50 businesses, deployed millions of dollars of investor capital, and generated substantial returns to investors. Additionally, one of the key end-markets I've invested in is the education sector, providing me a unique insight into higher education and some of the opportunities and threats to the sector. Lastly, I have mentored junior professionals throughout my career providing insight into the opportunities and challenges faced by young professionals which will allow me to further assist the Board in developing programs that position our graduates for success.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

My primary goal would be to help the Board perform its mission to enhance the educational experience, further professional development, promote philanthropic engagement, and foster a sense of community. I expect to gain a clear understanding of the programs and support in place today, work to assess those, share ideas for changes and improvement and develop clear objectives to measure progress regarding programs, support and engagement. I would also work to leverage professional contacts to further the board mission and act as a partner to Board leadership in helping them optimally execute.

Sarah Topy

Graduation Year(s) and Degree(s)
2023, B.A.

University Honors Program



Bio:

Sarah Topy is a 2003 graduate of The Ohio State University where she graduated with honors and with distinction. Her honors thesis won the Denman Undergraduate Research Award. She was involved with the Honors Program and served two years as Chief of Staff for Undergraduate Student Government. Since then, Sarah worked in politics for several years, including on a presidential and Senate race. Then she went to law school at the University of Cincinnati, where she graduated Order of the Coif, Suma Cum Laude, and as Executive Editor of the Law Review. She is currently an Assistant General Counsel at Procter & Gamble with a focus on global litigation. She co-leads P&G's Pro Bono Program. Sarah is also an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. She serves on the boards of the Ohio Innocence Project, the Association of Corporate Counsel, and the Immigrant and Refugee Law Center. Sarah has been recognized by the Business Courier's 40 Under 40 and as a Distinguished Alumni from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Candidate's Interest in Joining the Honors and Scholars Alumni Society Board of Governors:

Ohio State was one of the best experiences of my life, and in large part, that was due to my time as part of the Honors Program. I was able to take enriching classes, get into small seminar classes where I got to know my professors, and dig deep into the areas that really interested me. I took part in a number of Honors and Scholars programs, joined honor societies like Chimes and Mortar Board, and made lifelong friends who were part of this program. And through the Honors Program, I learned about Denman and the process of doing an undergraduate thesis, which was one of my major highlights in college. Even the support staff associated with the honors college – like my academic advisor – became some of the most important and influential people during my time at Ohio State. And I still go back for Homecoming each year with friends I made as part of the program. It was a big part of my experience at Ohio State, and something I loved very much. I am interested in joining the board to help others have that experience, to provide advice and counsel about the program and ways it can help students, and to reconnect with people who loved being part of the program as much as I did.

Candidate's Relevant Skills and Experience Brought to the Board:

I have significant experience contributing to boards and organizations that I would bring if elected to serve on the Honors and Scholars Board of Governors. As a lawyer, I have a strong background in board governance and efficiencies that makes me uniquely suited to service. I also have extensive experience in fundraising, event planning, and finding opportunities for students to connect with alumni.

For example, I helped start a University of Cincinnati College of Law Mentorship program to pair alumni with current law students to provide advice and counseling to them, and the program now has over fifty matches in it. I also believe that my experience as an adjunct professor makes me relate to today's students and provide them with the help and support they need – professional advice, career guidance, networking support, and encouragement when the future is not always clear. I will bring a commitment to the work and the organization, but most importantly the students we are serving, and I will be fully committed to my role on the board.

Candidate's Goals if Elected:

There are a number of goals I would pursue on the Board. First, I think expanding our opportunities for networking and engagement with alumni will be atop priority. I graduated from Ohio State twenty years ago and have worked for a Fortune 100 company, and have never been asked by Honors and Scholars to provide assistance to current students, to meet with those interested in my area of practice, or to assist those looking at Cincinnati. I think we can really revolutionize the engagement of our alumni – many of who want to serve like I do and had a great experience with Honors and Scholars – and I will make this a top priority. Second, I think doing more events where alumni can come back to campus or meet students where they are regionally to provide insight and real-world examples of how the experiences learned at Ohio State make an impact on our careers every day would be a great tool for our current students. And finally, I would try to find opportunities for alumni to get involved wherever they are. As someone whose career took them outside of Columbus, I struggle to find ways to contribute to Ohio State and give back to the students and organizations that gave so much to me. So whether it is a regional committee or events in other areas, I would try to strengthen our outreach in other areas.