



# Athletic Study Center *Scholar-Athlete* of the Week

## Elise Byun



*Recognized for embracing self-efficacy via application of knowledge, expansion of network, and pursuit of impact by engaging in a transformative manner with programs, organizations, and seminars, on and beyond campus, that address student-athlete voice, wellness, opportunity, and transition. Elise is truly an impactful advocate who has served on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee E-Board as Head of Internal Operations and Co-Lead of the Mental Health and Wellness Subcommittee. She is also a part of the Coaches Council and serves as her class captain on the Women's Gymnastics Team. Beyond Cal borders, Elise has been active with the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, enhancing the total student-athlete experience by protecting student-athlete well-being, fostering a positive student-athlete image and inclusive student-athlete environment, and promoting student-athlete engagement at the national, conference, and local levels. As a Make a Play Foundation D-League Fellow, Elise has leveraged her knowledge, skills, and experiences, as one of only 25 captains, to lead a cross-functional team of approximately 10 through a professional development fellowship designed to prepare underrepresented student-athletes for competitive industries. She is a transformative leader who works selflessly toward a collective purpose, a dedicated practitioner who recognizes and values the connection between mental and physical performance, and a social justice advocate who seeks service opportunities and organizations aligned with both personal interests and communal needs.*



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### Hugo González

*Recognized for balancing and prioritizing goals with a persistent approach to finishing his degree in Spanish & Portuguese, while facing cultural and linguistic barriers as an international student. Hugo has managed to leverage his resources in order to thrive in his courses and ultimately find a major that he is passionate about. He did a commendable job navigating through the pandemic, shifting to an online learning model, while rigorously training for the Olympics. Despite bumps along the way, Hugo always remained determined to do well in the classroom, to ultimately achieve his goal of graduating from Cal. He now serves as a leader and mentor for those on his team and has fostered deep relationships with his peers, guiding them to stay curious and tenacious within the academic and athletic journey. As a decorated NCAA champion and former record holder, Hugo maintains his humility by approaching workouts with a developmental mindset, seeking to learn and grow, with a light-hearted smile, that is often contagious. He is an extremely diligent student, logging long hours between practices and classes to perfect his craft, knowing that the path to success is not linear, but one that is fueled by sheer willpower.*





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### Keely Roy



*Recognized for mindfully identifying professional opportunities, on and off campus, to enhance a desired vision for understanding the intricacies of journalism from multiple aspects of human and situational engagement. Keely's motivation to take a more interdisciplinary and co-curricular path to graduate school based on passion, purpose, and pursuit has empowered her with a keen appreciation for the impact of lived experiences via various platforms focused on professional storytelling. Keely has strategically expanded her horizons by gaining valuable technical, analytic, and visionary skills as a content creator, social media manager, sideline reporter, and guest announcer within Cal Athletics. Beyond her achievements in the classroom and on the field, she has dedicated valuable time to motivational coaching and speaking engagements, cultural studies research and media projects, and private consultations in advertising. Keely's inquisitive leadership approach has allowed her to help fellow peers stabilize effective routines; establish a sense of belonging; develop transferable skills; examine daily habits/goals; understand the wellness cycle; embrace community engagement; evaluate personal growth; build a diverse support network; and celebrate small victories.*



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### **Sona Halajian**

*Recognized for initiating a transformative approach to serving fellow peers from both developmental and representational frameworks that address sense of belonging, utilizing resources, academic transition, and holistic growth. Sona is an amazing advocate for student-athletes who has demonstrated a commitment to providing her peers with tools and strategies for getting the most out of their Cal journey – intellectually, physically, and mentally. In her time at Berkeley she has served on multiple intercollegiate athletics student organizations (Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Health & Wellness Committee, Golden Girls Club, and Racial Justice Council) as a Team Representative, enhancing programs and providing perspective based on complicated lived experience conversations with peers. Furthermore, Sona has channeled her vast experience and knowledge towards creating the Bear Buddies First-Year Mentorship Program, giving seasoned student-athletes an opportunity to provide support for incoming freshman with a focus on academic and athletic expectations, wellness and performance factors, and navigating relationships and networks. Her vision for empowering student-athletes to own their experience has made a huge impact!*





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## Will Lavanakul



*Recognized for epitomizing immense depth in application of knowledge and skills to the process and practice of transformative learning via disciplinary courses, relevant projects, applicable internships, and collaborative research. As an Electrical Engineering and Computer Science major and Undergraduate Researcher, Will is currently exploring deep learning methods of finding input sets that satisfy control barrier function constraints for safety-critical control systems with Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR). He is also supporting younger peers by providing them with tutorial services and content application in various computer science courses. Will is highly knowledgeable and skilled in his field of study and has worked on numerous projects focused on Model-Free Reinforcement Learning, Optimal Job Scheduling, and File Sharing and Management Systems. Beyond his curricular and co-curricular commitments at Cal, he has impressively worked with the app monetization team at TikTok to optimize ads auction and bidding models for clickthrough rate (CTR) and conversion rate (CVR) estimates. Will's commitment to transforming digital tools via high-caliber innovation is truly impressive, given the breadth of projects that he has impacted during his time as an undergraduate Berkeley scholar.*