

To: Margaret Benz, Coordinator, Faculty Senate

From: Lynne Derbyshire, Director, Honors Program

Re: Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee Annual Report 2018-2019

Date: November 14, 2019

I submit the enclosed informational report to the Faculty Senate for its consideration. This report summarizes activities of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee during the immediately past 2018-2019 academic year.

ANNUAL REPORT  
HONORS PROGRAM AND VISITING SCHOLARS COMMITTEE  
2018-2019

The Honors Office has three distinct divisions: The Honors Program; National Fellowships Program; and Pre-Health Professions Advising Program.

## **HONORS PROGRAM**

### **A. Eligibility Standards**

Students may participate in the Honors Program if they meet the following standards: Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must have earned at least a 3.40 cumulative grade point average at URI; transfer students must have received a GPA of 3.40 or better at their previous institution to be eligible for honors courses. Incoming freshmen are invited to participate in the Honors Program based on one of the following:

- a cumulative high school GPA of 3.80 or higher (SAT scores are not considered)
- a cumulative high school GPA of 3.50 and higher AND a combined SAT score of 1300 or higher in Critical Reading and Mathematics (or ACT 27 or higher)

We decided on the dual eligibility criteria because SAT scores are highly correlated with family income; we wanted to be sure we were not excluding first generation and Pell eligible students.

Eligible accepted students AY 2019-20

3.5 > GPA and 1300 > SAT/27 > ACT = 90 students

3.8 > GPA (no SAT/ACT) = 983 students

### **B. Early Registration for Honors Program**

Participation in Early Registration advising suggests a means by which to assess student commitment to completing the Honors Program. Early Registration advising requires both student completion of a form detailing their progress toward meeting program requirement and their signature on a statement confirming their intention to complete the entire program.

1. *Early Registration advising:*

AY 2018-2019: 559 students declaring an intent to complete the Honors Program.

## C. Courses and Enrollment

During the Fall 2018 semester, the Honors Program offered 47 Honors courses (in addition to Honors Projects, Honors Directed Study and Administrative Internships).

In the Spring 2019 semester, we offered 34 Honors courses (in addition to Honors Projects, Administrative Internships and Honors Directed Study).

### Class Enrollments

- Fall 2018: 801 students
- Spring 2019: 599 students

## D. Faculty and Staff

The Honors faculty is drawn from seven of the University's colleges. See Appendix A for a list of those who taught Honors courses in 2018-2019. Over the past several years we have consciously attempted to increase the disciplinary diversity of our course offerings.

## E. Honors Colloquium

The Fall 2018 Honors Colloquium, *Reimagining Gender: Voices, Power, Action* was coordinated by Kyle Kusz (Department of English), Helen Mederer (Department of Sociology and Anthropology), Rosaria Pisa (Department of Sociology and Anthropology), Smita Ramnarain (Department of Economics) with the assistance of Deborah Gardiner and Anna Blake of the Honors Program.

The Colloquium examined topics such as *Gender, Power, and the Future of Feminism, Transgender Identity and Resistance: The Power of Story, and Gender in Politics: Voices, Power, Action.*

Jessica Valenti, was the opening speaker for the Colloquium. Called "one of the foremost writers and thinkers of her generation" by Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards, Jessica Valenti has been leading the national conversation on modern feminism for more than a decade. A New York Times best-selling author of five books and a columnist at the Guardian US, Valenti has also been widely credited with sparking the online wave of the women's movement.

The Colloquium closed with a panel discussion with Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo; Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea; and Donnie Anderson, the executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches. Moderated by URI professor of political science and NPR commentator Maureen Moakley.

In addition to financial support from the Honors Program, sponsors in support of the Fall 2018 Honors Colloquium were: URI Office of the President; URI Office of the Provost; The Mark and Donna Ross Honors Colloquium Humanities Endowment; The Thomas Silvia and Shannon Chandley Honors Colloquium Endowment; URI College of Arts & Sciences; URI College of Arts & Sciences Kenneth and Susan Kermes Distinguished Lecture Endowment; URI John Hazen White Sr. Center for Ethics and Public Service; URI College of Pharmacy; URI College of Engineering; URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences; URI College of Nursing; URI College of Business Administration; URI Division of Student Affairs; URI Department of Communications and Marketing; URI Department of Publications and Creative Services; URI ITS Instructional Technology and Media Services; URI Gender and Women's Studies Program; URI College of Health Sciences; URI Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies; URI Office of Community, Equity, and Diversity; Theatre Department; URI Department of Computer Science and Statistics; URI Department of Economics; URI Department of

English; URI Department of Sociology and Anthropology; URI Gender and Sexuality Center; URI Multicultural Student Services Center; URI Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science.

2018-2019 was the ninth year that the Colloquium was web-streamed live on the URI homepage. This will continue, as will archiving of most public lectures for more widespread use. The URI Department of Media & Technology Services, the URI Department of Communications and Marketing and the URI Publications Office also wonderfully support the Colloquium.

For Spring 2019, we offered 4 Honors Colloquia: *Treconomics: Life & Economics*, directed by Liam Malloy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics; *Advocacy and Civil Engagement*, directed by Louis Fosú, Honors Program; *CSI Oceans*, directed by Melissa Omand, Professor, URI Graduate School of Oceanography; and *Mathematics & Humanity*, directed by Mark Comerford, Associate Professor, URI Mathematics Department.

## **F. Visiting Scholars**

We supported several faculty proposals to bring visiting scholars to campus. We also worked with Vice Provost Laura Beauvais to award grants for international distinguished visiting scholars. One scholar visited the campus for a semester visit and taught an Honors 300-level course during the fall semester. We will work with the Provost's office in developing and evaluating this program.

## **G. Honors Project Conference and Awards Ceremony**

Honors Projects were presented at the twenty-second annual Honors Project Conference on May 1, 2019. The student conference scheduled poster presentations throughout the day for humanities, social science, natural science, and professional college projects in the Memorial Union, Rainville Ballroom. Each student completing a project also contributed an abstract to the conference program, available in the Honors Program office in Lippitt Hall. Presenters and titles are listed in Appendix B along with faculty sponsors. Associate Director Carolyn Hames serves as the primary advisor to students completing the Honors Program and is the main organizer of the annual Honors conference.

I want to express sincere appreciation to these faculty sponsors who devote their time to mentoring the students completing their Honors Projects. Their contribution is particularly remarkable in that *sixty-seven* of these faculty members were not teaching an Honors course in 2018-2019. Together with the *sixty-four* faculty teaching Honors courses, this brings the total number of faculty participating in the Honors Program during 2018-2019 to *one hundred and thirty-one* (131).

## **H. Honors Housing**

Housing is available to qualifying upper class Honors students on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Garrahy apartments and sophomore housing for 50 students in Coddington Hall.

## **NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS, AY 2018-2019**

Led by Honors Assistant Director Kathleen Maher, the Office of National Fellowships and Academic Opportunities offers guidance and support to students applying for prestigious external fellowships and scholarships. It is important to note that these opportunities are not restricted to Honors Program students; the office works with students from any student background who meet the eligibility requirements. This includes graduate students for certain international awards, as well as many recent alumni.

For awards requiring formal institutional nomination or endorsement (Boren, Fulbright, Goldwater, Marshall, Truman, Udall) 14 of our 22 nominees (64%) became finalists or awardees during the AY 18-19

competition cycle. Awardees hailed from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, and the Environment & Life Sciences.

### **6 BOREN AWARDS (4 Scholars & 2 Fellows)**

The National Security Education Program funds overseas study of languages critical to national security through the Boren Scholarship for undergraduates and the Boren Fellowship for graduate students. Students are awarded approximately \$20,000 and in return are obliged to work in federal employment (which aligns with their career goals) for a period of one year. Awardees also have the opportunity to attend a convocation ceremony in Washington, D.C. where they meet with their representatives in Congress. URI has a very strong track record in this program. This year 6 of our 7 applicants were selected, and the seventh was an alternate. The national success rate was 29% for undergraduate scholars (244/851) and 39% for graduate-level fellows (106/273), compared to our rate of 80% and 100% respectively. Since 2011 we have had 22 Boren Awardees – a success rate of over 55% – as well as four alternates.

Our 2019 **Boren Scholars (Undergraduate)** (up to \$20K funding) are:

1. **Sarah Chambers '20** (Chinese Flagship and Honors Program student with majors in Chinese and Global Business Management, as well as a Japanese minor) Sarah is spending the year in **China**.
2. **Keara Cole '20** (Chinese Flagship and International Engineering Program student with majors in Chinese and Computer Engineering and a Computer Science minor) Keara is spending the year in **China**.
3. **Derek Murphy '20** (Chinese Flagship and Honors Program student with majors in Chinese and Political Science) Derek is spending the year in **China**.
4. **Zachary Smith '20** (Chinese Flagship and International Engineering Program student with majors in Chinese, German and Electrical Engineering) Zach is spending the year in **Taiwan**.

A fifth undergraduate applicant, **Mikaela Vento** - a recent transfer student with majors in German and Criminology and Criminal Justice - was selected as an alternate for the Boren Scholarship for her proposal to study in Jordan.

Our 2019 **Boren Fellows (Graduate)** (up to \$24K funding) are:

1. **Cory Crew '20** MA in International Relations Cory will study in China.
2. **Daniel La Spisa '21** MA in International Relations. Dan will study in Jordan.

Given our strong record with this program, Kathleen Maher was one of seven Boren campus advisors invited to come to Washington, D.C. in February 2019 to participate in a roundtable discussion with leadership from the US Department of Defense's National Security Education Program (NSEP), which developed and funds the Boren Awards program, and from the Institute of International Education (IIE), which is contracted to administer the application process. These discussions resulted in a revised application and streamlined process.

### **2 FULBRIGHT US STUDENT GRANTEES and 3 SEMI-FINALISTS**

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide. The program awards grants annually in all fields of study, and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Five of our nine nominees to the Fulbright (55%) this cycle made it through the national screening process to become semi-finalists and were forwarded to the host countries for final review. Ultimately, two were awarded Fulbrights.

### **2019 Grantees**

1. **Keegan Glennon '17** (Philosophy & Psychology; Honors Program) received a grant to fund graduate studies at the University of Oslo in Norway, where she is pursuing a Masters in Development, Environment and Cultural Change.
2. **Cherish Prickett '18** (Industrial and Systems Engineering & German IEP) received a grant to pursue a Masters in Risk, Disaster and Resilience at the University College London in the United Kingdom.

### **2019 Semi-finalists**

1. **Maria Munar '18** (MS HDF -College Student Personnel) Spain ETA
2. **Charlie Santos '18** (Philosophy; Honors Program) United Kingdom Open Award
3. **Michael Grenier '18** (Music & Philosophy) United Kingdom Partnership Award to University of Southampton

URI's other Fulbright nominees were:

**Autumn Guillotte '18** (Philosophy & History; Honors Program)  
**Vanessa Jabbour '19** (Pharmaceutical Sciences & French; Honors Program)  
**Jonathan Peters '18** (Philosophy & Writing and Rhetoric)  
**Angela Pitassi '19** (MA in Hispanic Studies)

### **GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP**

The most prestigious undergraduate award for students in STEM disciplines, the Goldwater Scholarship recognizes those with strong potential for graduate studies and a STEM research career. For the 2019 cycle, URI nominated two students:

**Erin Dunphy '21** (Chemical Engineering & German IEP)  
**Justin Hayes '20** (Biomedical Engineering & Spanish IEP)

### **1 FINALIST/ALTERNATE MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP**

Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the United Kingdom. Founded by a 1953 Act of Parliament, and named in honour of US Secretary of State George C Marshall, the Scholarships commemorate the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan and they express the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts.

This cycle we nominated one student for this award, **Charlie Santos '18** (Philosophy; Honors Program). Charlie was selected as a finalist and was interviewed at the home of the British Consul General in Boston. After the interview he was placed on a nationwide reserve list as an alternate. While he did not ultimately move up from there, Charlie decided to pursue graduate studies for a Masters in Arts, Creativity and Education at the University of Cambridge anyhow and is currently in the UK.

### **1 FINALIST for TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

Each year the Truman Foundation selects 60 college juniors who wish to make a difference through public service with a \$30,000 award for graduate studies, as well a special summer internship program in Washington, D.C. Membership in the Truman Scholar community also leads to the benefit of an active lifelong professional network and special recruitment into leading graduate programs.

**Sam Foer '20** (Philosophy and Political Science; Honors Program) was selected as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship. He was interviewed by a distinguished panel of 8 in New York City in March and had the opportunity to spend the day with a dozen other Truman finalists.

URI's other nominee to the 2019 Truman competition was **Allison Lantagne '20** (Political Science & Communications).

## **UDALL SCHOLARSHIP**

Each year the Udall Foundation awards 50 scholarships and 50 Honorable Mentions to sophomores and juniors across the nation in recognition of their leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to the environment or to Native America nations.

Malachy McCaffrey '21 (Marine Biology) was our nominee in 2019.

## **OTHER NOTABLE RESULTS**

*In addition to awards requiring institutional nomination, the Office of National Fellowships and Academic Opportunities offers guidance, feedback and interview preparation to students applying for many other nationally competitive awards, the most significant 2018-2019 results are noted below.*

1. Since its inception in 2011 the **BEATRICE S. DEMERS FOREIGN LANGUAGE FELLOWS PROGRAM** has awarded over \$1.7M to URI students, who receive preference in the competition. This year 17 URI students were collectively awarded \$228,000 from the Demers to support immersion experiences in foreign languages. Awards ranged from \$8,100 to \$20,000 each. Of the 17 fellows, we have 1 each for Arabic and Italian; 2 each for French, German, and Japanese; 3 for Spanish; and 5 for Chinese.

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Major 1</b>	<b>Major 2</b>
Beluk	Molly	Spanish	Nursing
Chambers	Sarah	Chinese	Global Business
Cole	Keara	Chinese	Computer Eng.
DeMers	Melody	Psychology	
Guevara	David	Italian	Mechanical Engineering
Guillemette	Nathan	French	Biomedical
Hazard	Oliver	Spanish	Electrical Eng.
Hill	Maximillian	German	Mechanical Engineering
Horan	Samantha	Film Media	
Leffler	Johanna	French	ISD
Sawyer	Arianna	Spanish	Ocean Eng.

Sherlock	McKensie	Electrical Eng.	Chinese
Smith	Quinn	Chinese	Economics
Valdes	Jason	Mechanical Eng.	
Vento	Mikaela	German	Criminal Justice
Zuelke	Victoria	Biology	Psychology

2. **Rodrigo Pimentel '22** (Data Sciences) was awarded a \$35,000 scholarship from the **Golden Door Scholars Program**. The program provides competitive national scholarships for DACA students who wish to pursue a career in Computer Science, Tech, Engineering, or a related field.
  
3. In 2019 several URI students were recipients of **National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU)**. Unfortunately, the program is highly decentralized so that there is no way to track total participation. It is likely that more URI students received REUs this year, but unless they self-report it, we do not know of their success.
  - a. **Johniah Gomez '21** (Wildlife & Conservation Bio) was selected to participate in the NSF-LSAMP REU for U.S. Underrepresented Minority Students, a fully-funded 8-week summer program in Costa Rica.
  
  - b. **Alexa Leone '21** (Ocean Engineering) was selected for a Coastal Erosion project at Old Dominion University
  
  - c. **Alyjah Benton '20** (Sociology and GWS) participated in an REU at Texas A&M Research Institute in Sociology and Social Inequality
  
  - d. **Lucas Rodriguez '21** (Chemical Engineering)
  
4. The **BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** is a U.S. Department of State undergraduate study abroad scholarship program for U.S. citizens of limited financial means (Pell grant recipients). While Gilman Scholarship applications are processed through the Office of International Education and Enrollment Services/Financial Aid, the Office of National Fellowships and Academic Opportunities assists in the promotion of the Gilman and critiques applications for Honors and Pre-Health students, as well as others who request assistance.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 9 URI applicants were awarded Gilman Scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,500.

**TO FUND SPRING 2019:**

<b>Tai-Lei Miller</b>	Recipient	Costa Rica	\$2,500
Mikhala Bornstein	Recipient	Australia	\$4,500
<b>TO FUND SUMMER 2019</b>			
Wilbert De La Rosa	Declined Award	Germany	\$3,000
Mariah Messinger	Recipient	Spain	\$2,000
<b>Georgina Miranda</b>	Recipient	Thailand	\$2,000
Christian Acarapi	Recipient	Brazil	\$2,000

**TO FUND FALL 2019 AND AY 2019-20 STUDY ABROAD:**

Megan Elias	Declined Award	Italy	\$3,000
Shanice Cranston	Recipient	Australia	\$2,000
Joshua Jimenez	Recipient	Portugal	\$2,500

1. One sophomore marine biology student, **Elizabeth Sharaf '21**, was selected as **NOAA HOLLINGS SCHOLARS** this year. Over the course of two years she will each receive \$19,000 in scholarship monies, a 10-week paid internship at an NOAA location, and participate in several NOAA-organized professional development conferences. *Since the program's inception in 2005, twenty-eight URI sophomores have been named Hollings Scholars!*
5. **Cynthia Malambi '20** was named **2019 Public Policy & International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute** Law Fellow at UC-Berkeley. The PPIA JSI is a fully-funded rigorous 8-week academic graduate level preparation program for undergraduate juniors committed to public service careers. The program was started to address the lack of diversity across the spectrum of professional public service, including government, nonprofits, public policy institutions, and international organizations.
6. **Vanessa Jabbour '19** (Pharm Sciences & French) was selected by the French government's **Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF)**.
7. **Sam Foer '20** (Philosophy, Political Science; Honors Program) was selected as a summer fellow to the **Hertog Foundation Political Studies Program**, which includes \$2K stipend plus housing. This highly competitive 7-week summer fellowship is designed to reflect the broad curriculum of the Hertog Foundation. Hertog Summer Fellows take courses in a wide variety of subjects, from political philosophy to contemporary public affairs, from economics to foreign policy. Twenty-four exceptional undergraduates and recent grads (2018 and 2019) will be invited to participate.
8. **Jason Valdes '20** (Mechanical Engineering with a Japanese minor) was selected for a \$4,000 **Bridging Scholarship for Study in Japan** from the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ).
9. **Johniah Gomez '21** received the **Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship**. This renewable, four-year scholarship for New England students with financial need who display academic achievement, a commitment to serving others (in school, in the community or at home), a strong work ethic, and leadership qualities.

While this year's successes are exciting, it is important to note two points:

First, that those who apply but do not win or place in these competitions still derive a great deal of *value from the campus process*. Each year students tell us of how this deep, guided reflection on their accomplishments, goals and aspirations, has led them to discover other opportunities, or perhaps to realize a better professional path. It aids them identifying their mentors and in realizing the extent of their accomplishments, as well as any gaps which they need to address to successfully pursue their goals.

Secondly, that NONE of these successes would have been possible without dedicated faculty mentors who go above and beyond to support their students. Two, three or oftentimes four letters of recommendation from URI faculty members, as well as an institutional letter of endorsement or campus evaluation are required per application. A great letter takes a substantial amount of time to prepare! Boiler-plate letters and empty superlatives do not suffice for these special opportunities. Faculty themselves often prepare multiple drafts of their letters. We wish to heartily thank the faculty who put in that time, and in so doing launch their mentees into opportunities which are often transformative personally, professionally and intellectually.



There are too many letter writers to list here, but we would like to offer special recognition to the following members of the campus community who have gone a step further and offered their time on selection review committees and/or have served on mock interview panels. (Any omissions are surely accidental – please let us know if your name is missing.)

**British Scholarship Committee**

Cheryl Foster, Chair  
Martin Bide  
Graham Forrester  
Rod Mather  
Rachel Walshe

**Goldwater Faculty Advisor**

David Heskett

**NOAA Hollings Faculty Advisor**

Jacqueline Webb

**Recent Interview/Campus Committee Evaluation Panelists**

(as required for the Boren, Fulbright, Truman and UK Scholarships)

Martin Bide  
Sigrid Berka  
Richard Brown  
Amy Correia  
Lynne Derbyshire  
Matthew Dill  
Sylvia Dorado  
Cheryl Foster  
Graham Forrester  
Kathleen Gorman  
Mary Healey Jamiel  
Chet Hickox  
Kristin Johnson  
Brian Krueger  
Eric Loomis  
Hilda Llorens  
Alex Magidow  
Kelly Mahoney  
Rod Mather  
Liam Malloy  
Kathleen McIntyre  
Ric McIntyre  
Kathleen Melanson  
Maureen Moakley  
Joann Mundorf  
Norbert Mundorf  
Shanna Pearson- Merkowitz  
Iñaki Pérez-Ibáñez  
Rosaria Pisa  
Carlos Quijano  
Joanna Ravello

Michael Rice  
Andrea Rusnock  
Judith Swift  
Elin Torrell  
Ann Marie Vaccaro  
Ping Xu  
Jay Walsh  
Rachel Walshe  
...and more

As we aim to increase the number of applicants to external prestigious awards, the need for faculty mentors and interview panelists will continue to grow. If you would like to get more involved, please contact Kathleen Maher directly. The current year is off to a strong start – **Madison Cook-Hines '19** (Theatre) interviewed at the British Consul General's residence in Boston this as a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship. Madison, along with **Autumn Guillotte '18** (Philosophy & History; Honors Program) have also been selected as finalists in the Rhodes Scholarship competition. They will be interviewed on November 22-23 in Boston.

## APPENDIX

### URI Press Releases/Web Stories

Boren

<https://today.uri.edu/news/six-uri-students-win-boren-scholarships-fellowships-to-study-languages-overseas/>

Demers

<https://today.uri.edu/news/sixteen-uri-students-win-grants-to-study-foreign-languages-across-the-globe/>

Fulbright

<https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-international-engineering-program-alumna-earns-fulbright-award/>

Golden Door

[https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20190120/scholarship-lets-ri-dreamer-return-to-college?fbclid=IwAR0NOZGhCmRkPP02\\_3i2kwjlo-wFy8zltDVLth-n6-eWO5WkaNtLk4L6pVM](https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20190120/scholarship-lets-ri-dreamer-return-to-college?fbclid=IwAR0NOZGhCmRkPP02_3i2kwjlo-wFy8zltDVLth-n6-eWO5WkaNtLk4L6pVM)

Hollings

<https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-sophomore-awarded-prestigious-hollings-scholarship-from-noaa/>

NSF GRFP

<https://today.uri.edu/news/two-uri-graduate-students-awarded-prestigious-nsf-graduate-research-fellowships/>

## PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING PROGRAM

Assistant Director Andrew Simmons leads the Pre-Health Professions Advising Program and chairs the Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC). His primary advising is with juniors, seniors, and recent alumni.

Jonathan Albert is the advisor for freshman and sophomore pre-health students. She is also an advisor in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS) for students majoring in Biology, Biological Sciences, and Cell & Molecular Biology.

The Pre-Health Program supports student and recent alumni preparing to apply for admission to medical, dental, optometry, physician assistant, and other health profession training programs that require a degree beyond the baccalaureate (with the exception of pre-veterinary, which has a program in CELS). Though housed in the Honors Program, Pre-Health Advising is open to all URI students.

The program is guided by four goals:

1. **Knowledge**—students will gain knowledge of their intended profession sufficient to make an informed career choice related to their abilities, attributes, and values--even if this ultimately leads them to careers outside of the health professions.
2. **Planning**—students will create and continuously refine a rigorous and personally fulfilling academic and experiential pre-health plan. Such a plan will facilitate development of the high-level knowledge, skills, and personal attributes (as defined by the various health professions) needed for success in the admission process as well as the study and practice of health care.
3. **Reflection**—students will continuously assess and/or reflect on their learning in order to understand areas of strength and those in need of improvement, and to become increasingly aware of and understand their own motivation for a career in the health professions.
4. **Application**—students will develop carefully planned and well-timed applications to health profession schools.

Each of these goals is addressed through workshops, events, web and print resources, outreach, and individual advising. The pre-health program plans and implements over 20 workshops and events each year. The program also maintains a list of around 1,000 students and recent alumni interested in health professions.

Students and recent alumni receive comprehensive support for their applications through the HPAC. Each year, the Committee interviews students and recent alumni applying for admission to medical, dental, optometry, or podiatry school. The process begins with a self-assessment interview with the HPAC Chair to determine their readiness for the process. Applicants deemed to be ready then submit a comprehensive dossier that includes a personal statement, list of activities, and academic information. During the spring semester each student participates in a multiple mini interview session with HPAC, and then one individual interview with a committee member. With information gathered from the dossier and interviews, along with recommendation letters submitted by individuals familiar with the applicant's work, the HAC Chair prepares a comprehensive letter of recommendation from HPAC, which is forwarded to each applicant's designated schools along with their supporting letters of recommendation. This committee letter is either required or strongly preferred by medical and several other health profession schools.

### Special Admission Routs:

- ***The Brown Early Identification Program***: URI has an agreement with the Alpert Medical School at Brown University (AMS) whereby our most highly qualified premedical students from Rhode Island can apply for

an early contingent admission. Student apply during the fall term of their junior year. They must be nominated to AMS by the Health Professions Advisory Committee. Nominated applicants then apply to Brown with HPAC’s letter of recommendation. In the fall of 2018, HPAC nominated just one student for the EIP; she received an interview at AMS but was not admitted. This fall, HPAC has nominated three students to AMS (the outcome of their applications will not be known until late January, 2020).

- *The URI-Johnson and Wales Master of Physician Assistant Studies Articulation Agreement.* Through this agreement, up to six qualified URI students are admitted to the JWU PA program. For the 2019 admission cycle, six applicants were nominated to JWU; four were accepted, one chose to attend another PA program, and one was placed on the wait list, and ultimately was admitted to another program

**2019 Admission—Outcomes as of November 14 2019**

	Admitted	Not Admitted	Outcome Unknown
Medical School (MD, DO, foreign)	14	2	0
Dental	2	2	0
Optometry	1	0	0
Physician Assistant	9	1	1
TOTAL	28	4	1

## **Appendix A**

Honors Teaching Faculty, 2018-2019

The following faculty members were selected to teach Honors Program courses during the 2018-2019 academic year:

**College of Arts & Sciences:** Christopher Barrett, Lecturer (Honors Program); Kristine Cabral, Senior Lecturer (Communication Studies); Jiangping Cai Lecturer (Languages); Mark Comerford, Associate Professor (Mathematics); Madeline Derbyshire, Associate Professor (Communication Studies); Erin Earle, Lecturer (Honors Program); Cheryl Foster, Professor (Philosophy); Louis Fosu, Faculty of Practice (Political Science); Angel Green, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Mary Healey Jamiel, Professor (Communication Studies); Xiaoyan Hu, Senior Lecturer (Languages); Scott Jensen, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Galen Johnson, Professor (Philosophy); Heather Johnson, Teaching Professor (Writing and Rhetoric); Carnell Jones Jr., Director (Enrollment Services); Leonard Kahn, Professor (Physics); William Kinnersley, Assistant Professor (Mathematics); Kyle Kusz, Associate Professor (English); Erik Loomis, Associate Professor (History); Alexander Magidow, Associate Professor (Languages); Liam Malloy, Associate Professor (Economics); Kathleen McIntyre, Assistant Professor (GWS); Richard McIntyre, Professor (Economics); Arthur Mead, Professor (Economics); Helen Mederer, Professor (Sociology); Humberto Miranda, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Sara Murphy, Lecturer (Ad Hoc, Honors Program); Barry O'Connor, Assistant Director, (Enrollment Services); Nikolaos Poulakos, Senior Lecturer (Communication Studies); Tracy Proulx, Senior Lecturer (Communication Studies); Douglass Reed, Assistant Professor (Philosophy); Ian Reyes, Associate Professor (Communication Studies); Rebecca Romanow, Teaching Professor (Film Studies); Andrea Rusnock, Associate Dean (Grad School); Judith Swift, Director (Coastal Institute); Michael Tammaro, Teaching Professor (Physics); Sarah Toatley, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Kathleen Torrens, Professor (Communication Studies); Bethany Vaccaro, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Qingyu Yang, Lecturer (Ad Hoc, Languages); James Ward, Senior Lecturer (History); Yu Wu, Assistant Professor (Languages); Thomas Zorabedian, Assistant Dean (College of Arts & Sciences).

**College of Business Administration:** Silvia Dorado-Banacloche, Associate Professor; Martin Bide, Professor (Textiles, Fashion Merchandising & Design);

**College of the Environment and Life Sciences:** Jose Amador, Professor (Natural Resources Science); Bryan M. Dewsbury, Assistant Professor (CELS-BIO); Jessica Frazier, Assistant Professor (CELS-MAF); Steven Gregory, Associate Professor (CELS-CMB); Roger Lebrun, Professor (CELS-PLS).

**College of Engineering:** Bahram Nassersharif, Distinguished University Professor (Mechanical, Industrial and Systems Engineering).

**College of Health Sciences:** Jay Fogleman, Jr., Associate Professor (Education); Allison Harper, Teaching Professor (Kinesiology); Skye Leedahl, Associate Professor (Human Development and Family Studies); Theodore Walls, Associate Professor (Psychology; Behavioral Science).

**Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies:** Thupten Tendhar, Visiting Buddhist Geshe Scholar.

**College of Nursing:** Carolyn Hames, Associate Professor (Nursing).

**Graduate School of Oceanography:** Melissa Omand, Assistant Professor (GSO); Arthur Spivack, Professor, (GSO).

**URI ITS Instructional Technology and Media Services:** Roy Bergstrom, Lead Information Technologist (MTS)

***URI Pre-Health:*** Andrew Simmons, Director (Honors Program)

**Appendix B**

**HONORS PROJECT  
CONFERENCE, 2018-19**

# HONORS POSTERS

**EMELY BAEZ**

Nursing, Spanish

*Sponsors: Mary Cloud (Nursing), Donna Schwartz-Barcott (Nursing)*

Reflection of Different Nursing Leadership in Three Countries

**ALYSON BERRY**

Sociology: Criminology & Criminal Justice

*Sponsor: Jill Doerner (Sociology & Anthropology, Criminology & Criminal Justice)*

From Reformatories to Today and into the Future: What Needs to Change for Female Offenders

**LAUREN BLACK**

Mathematics, Data Science

*Sponsor: Stephen Atlas (Business)*

Tutor Training Program on the Importance of Confidence in Education

**ANDREW BOARDMAN**

Economics

*Sponsor: Theresa Devine (Economics)*

Welfare to Work: A Political History and Time-Series Analysis of the Earned Income Tax Credit in Rhode Island

**NATASCHA BORGSTEIN**

Marine Biology

*Sponsor: Alison Jackson Frasier (Center for Student Leadership Development)*

Juggling Junior Year: A Junior Leadership Experience

**ROBERT BOUFFARD**

Psychology

*Sponsor: Kathleen Webster (Psychology)*

The Role of Dreams, Intuition, and Social Influences on Conscious Decision-Making Processes

**NINA BOYER**

Chemistry

*Sponsor: Martin Bide (Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design)*

50 Shades of Blue: A study on the uptake of indigo by cationic cotton



# HONORS POSTERS

**NICHOLAS BUSH**

Psychology

*Sponsor: Andrea Paiva (Psychology)*

Lending a Hand: Healthcare Cost and Treatment Impact of Peer Recovery Services, A Review of the Literature

**BRADLEY BZDYRA**

Civil Engineering

*Sponsor: Joseph Goodwill (Civil and Environmental Engineering)*

Exploiting Unique Iron Properties Towards Improved Water Treatment

**VERITY CHESLO**

Supply Chain Management, Chinese

*Sponsor: Jill Long (Writing & Rhetoric)*

Half the Sky: Equality in the Workplace for Chinese Women

**JESSICA COHEN**

Political Science

*Sponsors: Kathleen Maher (Honors Program), Nancy Stricklin (Office of the Provost)*

Humans of the Peace Corps: URI Edition

**VINCENT COLANTUONO**

Kinesiology

*Sponsor: Jacob Earp (Kinesiology)*

The Effects of Contrast with Compression Therapy on the Recovery of Muscle Glycogen after a bout of Resistance Exercise

**IAN CONNORS**

Economics, Political Science

*Sponsor: Liam Malloy (Economics, Honors Program)*

Econometrics and Datamining using R Programming

**JESSICA CRAVEN**

Communication Studies, Political Science

*Sponsors: Kristin Johnson (Political Science), Cate Morrison (Communication Studies)*

How to Discuss Politics Without Wanting to Kill Someone

# HONORS POSTERS

**HANNAH DALLAS**

Environmental Science and Management,  
Wildlife Conservation Biology  
*Sponsor: Laura Meyerson (Natural Resources  
Science)*

Modernizing Habitat Suitability  
Indices (HSI): A Northern  
Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys  
terrapin terrapin*) Case Study

**SUNNY DAVIS**

Film/Media, Writing & Rhetoric  
*Sponsor: Keith Brown (Film/Media)*

From Finish to Start: Developing a  
TV Series

**KATHERINE DeTORA**

Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and  
Design, Marketing  
*Sponsor: Saheli Goswami (Textiles, Fashion  
Merchandising and Design)*

Buying Counterfeits: Analyzing  
Purchase Motivation Factors for  
Luxury Fashion

**CAROLYN ELLIS**

Nutrition and Dietetics, Psychology  
*Sponsor: Andrea Paiva (Psychology)*

Food is Medicine: A Low-cost, Plant-  
based Cooking Class Series for  
Food Pantry Users

**SARAH FALKOWSKI**

Accounting, Political Science  
*Sponsor: Donna Gamache-Griffiths (Business)*

Social Media's Affect on Self Image  
and Daily Life

**ANGELA FERLO**

Pharm D  
*Sponsor: Kristina Ward (Pharmacy)*

The Effect of Music, Art, Photo,  
Animal Assisted, and Alternative  
Therapies on Quality of Life  
in Patients with Dementia: A  
Systematic Review

**COLBY FERREIRA**

Cell and Molecular Biology  
*Sponsor: Jodi Camberg (Cell and Molecular  
Biology)*

Can MinC Modulate MinD Oscillation  
in Vivo?

# HONORS POSTERS

**ASHLEY FONTANA**

Criminology and Criminal Justice,

Psychology

*Sponsor: Kathleen Webster (Psychology)*

Changing the Age-old Stigmatization  
of Mental Health

**KYLE FOUNTAIN**

Marine Biology

*Sponsor: Cheryl Foster (Philosophy)*

Pedagogy in Place: Engaging 5th  
Graders in Environmental Science

**ALEKSANDRA FRYC**

Psychology

*Sponsor: Nicole Weiss (Psychology)*

The Role of Head Trauma in  
Emotion Dysregulation Among  
Victims of Partner Violence

**EMMA FURNESS**

Communicative Disorders

*Sponsor: Rachel Smith (Communicative Disorders)*

Hear Me Out: Communication and  
Peer Support for Adults with Hearing  
Loss

**DANIEL GAUTHIER**

Computer Science

*Sponsor: David Brown (Computer Science and  
Statistics)*

University of Rhode Island Course  
Information Assistant

**RYAN GEIB**

Mathematics

*Sponsor: Lubos Thoma (Mathematics)*

Do Metabolic Networks Follow a  
Power Law? A PSAMM Analysis

**KATHERINE GORHAM**

Communication Studies

*Sponsor: Patricia McCarthy (Textiles, Fashion  
Merchandising and Design)*

From Eye Sore to Eye Catching:  
Improving Function and Appeal of  
Campus Spaces

# HONORS POSTERS

**TERESA GRAZIANO**

Nursing

*Sponsor: Carolyn Hames (Honors Program)*

Fostering Meaning-Making in  
Grieving Individuals with Intellectual  
and Developmental Disabilities

**NATHAN GUILLEMETTE**

Biomedical Engineering, French

*Sponsor: Gretchen Macht (Mechanical, Industrial  
and Systems Engineering)*

Customer-Centric Design in  
Wearable Products for Ergonomic  
Support

**REBECCA GUMBREWICZ**

Environmental Science and

Management

*Sponsor: Judith Swift (Communication Studies,  
Coastal Institute)*

Elevating the Environment Through  
Artistic Expression

**SAMANTHA HAMILTON**

Finance

*Sponsor: Bing-Xuan Lin (Finance)*

The Impact of Social Media on  
Reputational Risk

**KATHERINE HARTE**

PharmD

*Sponsor: Kristina Ward (Pharmacy)*

Tamsulosin Use After Shock Wave  
Lithotripsy: A Systematic Review

**NICHOLAS HOUSEMAN**

Marine Biology

*Sponsor: Evan Preisser (Biological Sciences)*

It's not easy being green: A Study  
of the Chemical Phenology of the  
eastern hemlock throughout a  
Growing Season

**ESOHEOSA IGBINEWEKA**

Political Science, Economics

*Sponsor: Kristin Johnson (Political Science)*

Policy Implementation on the Flint  
Michigan Water Crisis

# HONORS POSTERS

**IQRA ISHAQ**

Sociology, Philosophy

*Sponsor: Megan Parry (Criminology and Criminal Justice)*

Villains, Morality, and Redemption:

A Content Analysis of Children's

Movies

**VANESSA JABBOUR**

Pharmaceutical Sciences, French

*Sponsor: Angela Slitt (Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences)*

Do PFAS Precursors Induce Lipid

Accumulation in Hepatocytes?

**TERRA MARIE JOUANEH**

Pharmaceutical Sciences

*Sponsor: Matthew Kieseewetter (Chemistry)*

Bridging the Molecular/Material

Divide: An Investigation into the

Properties of Polyesters

**AMY KOSTKA**

Biological Sciences

*Sponsor: Timothy George (History)*

The Yosakoi Festival and Rural

Revitalization in Kōchi Prefecture,

Japan

**GABRIELLE LAFOND**

Communication Studies, Spanish

*Sponsor: Abran Salazar (Communication Studies)*

A Study of Communication and

Hispanic Cultural Values Within the

Family

**ALYSSA LAMOND**

Medical Laboratory Science

*Sponsor: Theresa Tellier-Castellone (Cell & Molecular Biology)*

Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia: A

Case Study Correlating Cytogenetic

Abnormality with Prognosis

**SARA LIVECCHI**

Writing & Rhetoric, Communication Studies

*Sponsor: Sara Murphy (Thanatology)*

Pick Up The Slack

# HONORS POSTERS

**BRANDON LOVEJOY**  
Public Relations, History, Theatre  
*Sponsor: Paula McGlasson (Theatre)*

TEDxURI: Learning the  
Interdisciplinary Aspects of Stage  
Management

**JULIA LUDOVICI**  
Writing & Rhetoric, Political Science  
*Sponsor: Kathleen McIntyre (Honors Program,  
Gender and Women's Studies)*

Participation of Young Women  
in Chilean Politics: Perception  
of access to, and importance of,  
political participation among women  
at the University of Viña del Mar

**ANABELLE MAHONEY**  
Writing & Rhetoric  
*Sponsor: Heather Price (Writing & Rhetoric)*

What's in a Genre?: The  
Relationship Between Reader and  
Text

**KELLY McMANUS**  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
*Sponsor: Matthew Bertin (Biomedical and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences)*

The Characterization of a New  
Metabolite from a *Trichodesmium*  
Bloom

**SHANNON MITCHELL**  
Psychology, Human Development and  
Family Studies  
*Sponsor: Paul Bueno de Mesquita (Psychology)*

Finding Inner Peace through Yoga:  
My Journey to Relieve Stress and  
Anxiety

**CRISTINA MONACO**  
Sociology, Psychology  
*Sponsor: Natalie Pifer (Criminology and Criminal  
Justice)*

Taking the Next Step After the  
Federal "First Step Act": An  
International Comparison of How  
Correctional Facilities Care for and  
Protect Pregnant Inmates

# HONORS POSTERS

**MELISSA MORRIS**

Chemistry

*Sponsor: Jason Dwyer (Chemistry)*

Nanopore Sensing for Single  
Molecule Glycomics

**ALLISON MOSICHUK**

Animal Science and Technology: Pre-Vet

*Sponsor: Maria Hoffman (Fisheries, Animal and  
Veterinary Sciences)*

Evaluating and Understanding the  
Effects of Ewe Gastrointestinal  
Nematode Burden on Lamb Growth  
and Development

**EMILY MURRAY**

PharmD

*Sponsor: Joan Lausier (Pharmacy)*

Integration of Native American  
Medicinal Plants into the Herber W.  
Youngken Jr. Garden

**BRIDGET NOBILETTI**

Global Business Management

*Sponsor: Aimee Phelps (Business)*

A Guide to Implementing Leadership  
Development at a Company

**MEGAN O'CONNELL**

Nursing

*Sponsor: Paul Bueno de Mesquita (Psychology)*

Non-pharmacological Approaches to  
Stress Reduction and the Treatment  
of Migraines

**HEATHER O'HARA**

Elementary Education, Psychology

*Sponsor: Sara Sweetman (Education)*

Creating Children's Literature to  
Promote Acceptance and Awareness  
of Autism

**JACK O'MARRA**

Communication Studies

*Sponsor: Maureen McDermott (Office of Student  
Involvement)*

Sports Broadcasting: A Workshop

# HONORS POSTERS

ADELOLA OJUTIKU

Economics, Mathematics

*Sponsor: Smita Ramnarain (Economics)*

China in Africa: A New Scramble

MADISON PARKS

Animal Science and Technology: Pre-Vet

*Sponsor: Katherine Petersson (Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science)*

Refinement of an in vivo  
exsheathment assay of  
*Haemonchus contortus* in ruminally  
fistulated ewes

DAWN PARRY

Marine Biology

*Sponsor: Jacqueline Webb (Marine Biology)*

Correlation Between Sei Whale  
Distribution and Chlorophyll-a  
Concentration in the Western North  
Atlantic

KIMBERLYN PETIT

Health Studies

*Sponsor: Robert Rodgers (Pharmacy)*

JuuLike It?

KENDALL RANKIN

Accounting

*Sponsor: Donna Gamache-Griffiths (Business)*

Where Reality Meets Fantasy

MONEE REIS

Gender and Women's Studies, Africana  
Studies

*Sponsor: Kathleen McIntyre (Gender and Women's  
Studies, Honors Program)*

Black Feminism: Switching the  
Script on Traditional Feminist  
Narratives

BRIANNA REPKE

Economics, German

*Sponsor: Theresa Devine (Economics)*

Labor Market Policies and Women's  
Labor Market Activity in the United  
States and Germany



# HONORS POSTERS

**MICHAEL RICKER**  
Communication Studies, Political Science  
*Sponsor: Marc Hutchison (Political Science)*

Terrorism & Salafi ideology

**ARIANNA RIZZO**  
Film/Media  
*Sponsor: Keith Brown (Film/Media)*

From the Process through the  
Premiere

**ALEXANDRA ROBERTI**  
Accounting  
*Sponsor: Edmund Boyle (Business)*

The Evolution of Technology in Auditing

**MILLEAH SAWTELLE**  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
*Sponsor: Nisanne Ghonem (Biomedical and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences)*

Effects of renal ischemia-reperfusion  
injury on cytochrome P450 activity

**CHRISTINA SEBASTIAO**  
Communicative Disorders  
*Sponsor: Rachel Smith (Communicative Disorders)*

The Importance of Interprofessional  
Education to develop successful  
Interprofessional Collaborative  
Teams in Healthcare

**KAITLYN SHEEHAN**  
Communication Studies, Public Relations  
*Sponsor: Judith Swift (Communication Studies,  
Coastal Institute)*

Decades of Distraction: How the  
United States Ignores Climate  
Change

**MADISON SMITH**  
Cell and Molecular Biology  
*Sponsor: Anuja Mathew (Cell and Molecular  
Biology)*

Distribution of Dengue and Zika  
Virus IgG Immunoglobulin

# HONORS POSTERS

**KATHERINE SOUZA**  
Communication Studies  
*Sponsor: Margaret Frazier (Music)*

Vocal Performance from  
Renaissance to Modern Day

**EVELYN SPENCER**  
Marine Biology  
*Sponsor: Christopher Lane (Biology)*

Surveying Apicomplexan Diversity  
and Dynamics in Narragansett Bay

**NAZARET SUAZO**  
Psychology  
*Sponsor: Nicole Weiss (Psychology)*

Variants of Emotional Expressivity  
and Complexity Across Cultural  
Groups

**KIANNA TAYLOR**  
Animal Science and Technology: Pre-Vet  
*Sponsor: Maria Hoffman (Fisheries, Animal and  
Veterinary Sciences)*

The development of a fecal  
glucocorticoid metabolite assay to  
assess stress in captive breeding  
populations of New England  
Cottontail rabbits

**NATHANIEL VACCARO**  
Writing & Rhetoric, English  
*Sponsor: Lehua Ledbetter (Writing & Rhetoric)*

Internet Heaven: Exploring Poetry  
and Digital Rhetoric

**LENA VYE**  
Political Science  
*Sponsor: Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz (Political  
Science)*

Charter School Performance in  
Rhode Island

**CHRISTINE WAGNER**  
Psychology, Sociology  
*Sponsor: Judy Van Wyk (Sociology and  
Anthropology)*

Examining Intimate Partner Violence

# HONORS POSTERS

**SYDNEY WALL**

**Nursing**

*Sponsor: Robert Widell (History)*

Morals and Martial Arts: A Woman's  
Place of Empowerment through  
Judo

**SAMANTHA WARD**

**Marine Biology, Spanish**

*Sponsor: Justin Richard (Fisheries, Animal and  
Veterinary Sciences)*

Measuring Stress in Red-tailed  
Hawks Undergoing Rehabilitation  
through Fecal Corticoids

**ASHLEY WEADICK**

**Psychology, Biology**

*Sponsor: Carolyn Hames (Honors Program)*

An Analysis of Provider Perceived  
Barriers to Contraceptive Access  
and Reproductive Healthcare

**ERIKA YEAGER**

**Political Science**

*Sponsor: Jill Doerner (Sociology & Anthropology,  
Criminology & Criminal Justice)*

Criminal Justice Systems: Impacts  
that Transcend Borders and Prison  
Bars

**ALEXANDER YONCHAK**

**Cell and Molecular Biology, Anthropology**

*Sponsor: Neil Greene (Cell and Molecular Biology)*

Developing a Modern Microbiology  
Laboratory Manual to Enhance  
Student Learning

**GIANNA ZAVOTA**

**Animal Science**

*Sponsor: Bryan Dewsbury (Biological Sciences)*

Validating the Kubinyi Personality Scale  
in Shelter Dogs

**GABRIELLE ZEYL**

**Communicative Disorders**

*Sponsor: Vanessa Harwood (Communicative  
Disorders)*

The Effects of Gesture on Early  
Language Production

