

To: Margaret Benz, Coordinator, Faculty Senate
From: Lynne Derbyshire, Director, Honors Program
Re: Honors Program Annual Report 2019-2020
Date: December 1, 2020

I submit the enclosed informational report to the Faculty Senate for its consideration. This report summarizes activities of the Honors Program during the past 2019-2020 academic year.

ANNUAL REPORT HONORS PROGRAM 2019-2020

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 2019-2020: 496 students declaring an intent to complete the Honors Program.

C. Courses and Enrollment

During the Fall 2019 semester, the Honors Program offered 49 Honors courses (in addition to Honors Projects, Honors Directed Study and Administrative Internships).

In the Spring 2020 semester, we offered 40 Honors courses (in addition to Honors Projects, Administrative Internships and Honors Directed Study).

Class Enrollments

- Fall 2019: 820 students
- Spring 2020: 563 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 2019-2020. Over the past several years we have consciously attempted to increase the disciplinary diversity of our course offerings.

E. Honors Colloquium

The Fall 2019 Honors Colloquium, *Religion in America* was coordinated by Annu Matthew (Center for the Humanities), Evelyn Sterne (Department of History), Alan Verskin (Department of History) with the assistance of Deborah Gardiner and Anna Blake of the Honors Program.

The Colloquium examined topics such as *Islam in America, Judaism in America, Religion and Medicine, Spirituality, and What Does Religion in the United States Look Like Today?*

Alan Cooperman, was the opening speaker for the Colloquium. Alan Cooperman is the Director of Religion Research at Pew Research Center. He is an expert on religion's role in U.S. politics and has reported on religion in Russia, the Middle East and Europe. He plays a central role in planning the project's research agenda and writing its reports. Before joining Pew Research Center, he was a national reporter and editor at The Washington Post and a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press and U.S. News & World Report.

The Colloquium closed with Molly Worthen, Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a freelance journalist. Worthen lectures widely on religion and politics and teaches courses on North American religious and intellectual culture, global Christianity, and the history of ideas. She is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times* and has written about religion and politics for the *New Yorker*, *Slate*, the *American Prospect*, *Foreign Policy*, and other publications.

In addition to financial support from the Honors Program, sponsors in support of the Fall 2019 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 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; URI Theatre Department; URI Multicultural Student Services Center; URI Center for the Humanities; Norman M. Fain Hillel Center; URI Chaplains Association; Social Science Institute for Research, Education, and Policy (SSIREP).

2019-2020 was the tenth 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 2020, we offered 3 Honors Colloquia: *Treconomics: Life & Economics*, directed by Liam Malloy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics; *Mathematics & Humanity*, directed by Mark Comerford, Associate Professor, URI Mathematics Department and *Climate Change and your Future*, directed by Judith Swift, Professor, Communication Studies and Theatre; Director, Coastal Institute.

F. Honors Project Virtual Conference and Awards Ceremony

Honors Projects were presented at the twenty-third annual Honors Project Conference on April 29, 2020. The student conference scheduled virtual poster presentations throughout the day for humanities, social science, natural science, and professional college projects. Each student completing a project also contributed an abstract to the conference program. Associate Director, Kathleen McIntyre 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-nine* of these faculty members were not teaching an Honors course in 2019-2020. Together with the *sixty-four* faculty teaching Honors courses, this brings the total number of faculty participating in the Honors Program during 2019-2020 to *one hundred and thirty-three* (133).

G. Honors Housing

Housing is available to qualifying upper class Honors students. Housing and Residential Life piloted an LLC for undeclared Honors freshmen.

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS, AY 2019-2020

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, Rhodes, Truman) 12 of our 25 nominees (48%) became finalists or awardees during the AY 19-20 competition cycle. Nominees for these awards hailed from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and the Environment & Life Sciences.

2 BOREN AWARDS (1 Scholar & 1 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 2 of our 4 applicants were selected, and a third was an alternate. Our rate of success continues to be much greater than the national average. Of the 24 Boren Scholars and 4 Fellows we have had in the history of the program, *17 have been selected in the past 4 years at a cumulative success rate of 70% for the undergraduate scholarship and 100% for the graduate fellowship.*

Our 2020 **Boren Scholar (Undergraduate)** (up to \$20K funding) is:

Ying Wu'22, a Talent Development, Chinese Flagship and Honors Program student with majors in Chinese and Criminology & Criminal Justice. Ying had intended to spend the AY 20-21 in China, but due to travel restrictions the Flagship Capstone Program went virtual, the cost of which the Boren still covered.

A second undergraduate applicant, **Timothy Berard** - a community college transfer student with majors in Africana Studies and Political Science - was selected as an alternate for the Boren Scholarship for his proposal to study in Jordan.

Our 2020 **Boren Fellow (Graduate)** (up to \$24K funding) is:

Nicole Roberts, who is pursuing MS in Biological and Environmental Sciences. Nicole intends to use her award for intensive study of Bahasa Indonesia if travel restrictions are lifted in time to avoid delays in her research.

5 FULBRIGHT US STUDENT GRANTEES and 1 SEMI-FINALIST

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.

Six of our twelve nominees to the Fulbright (50%) this cycle made it through the national screening process to become semi-finalists, meaning that their applications were forwarded to the host countries for final review. Ultimately, five were awarded Fulbrights.

The 2020 Grantees are:

- 1) **Paul Carvalho '20** (PhD Biological and Environmental Sciences) for his research proposal to assess small-scale coral reef fishery resources in the Philippines;
- 2) **Tabatha Lewis '19** (Environmental Science and Management; Peace Corps Prep Program) for her proposal to research the effects of inadequate septic systems on well water quality in an Indonesian village;
- 3) **Aria Mia Loberti '20** (Communications, Philosophy & Political Science; Honors Program) to fund her graduate studies at Royal Holloway in the United Kingdom, where she is pursuing a research Masters (MRes) in Rhetoric;
- 4) **Cynthia Malambi '20** (French and Political Science; Talent Development Scholar and Honors Program) to pursue a Masters in Conflict and Development at the University of Ghent in Belgium;
- 5) **Jessica Vandenburg '20** (PhD Marine Affairs) for her research proposal to evaluate the role of social networks in the adoption of destructive fishing practices in Indonesia. Jessica was also selected for a Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA) to study Indonesian intensively prior to commencing her research.

Additionally, **Yasmin Hussein '20** (Political Science and Public Relations) who applied to the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship opportunity offered in the Palestinian Territories was a **semi-finalist**.

URI's other Fulbright nominees were:

- 1) **Sarah Chambers '20** (Global Business Management & Chinese; Flagship)
- 2) **Verity Cheslo '19** (Supply Chain Management & Chinese; Honors Program & Flagship)
- 3) **Madison Cook-Hines '19** (Theatre)
- 4) **Jonathan Gilbert** (Doctoral student in Business)
- 5) **Julia Ludovici '19** (Writing and Rhetoric and Political Science; Honors Program)
- 6) **Christopher Parisella '20** (Political Science and French; Honors Program)

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP Nominees

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 2020 cycle, URI nominated three students:

- 1) **Mileena Nguyen '21** (Cell and Molecular Biology; Honors Program)
- 2) **Raymond Turrisi '22** (Mechanical Engineering & French; IEP)
- 3) **Myles Wagner '22** (Marine Biology and Cell and Molecular Biology; Honors Program)

1 MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Marshall Scholarships finance up to fifty young Americans of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the United Kingdom. Scholars are selected based upon their *academic merit*, *leadership ability*, and *ambassadorial potential*. Founded by a 1953 Act of Parliament, and named in honor 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, **Madison Cook-Hines'19** (Theatre). Madison was selected as a finalist and was interviewed at the residence of the British Consul General in Boston.

2 RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

In the fall of 2019 we nominated three individuals for the American Rhodes Scholarship, which funds 32 US Americans pursue a degree at Oxford University. Scholars are selected based upon “not only their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead.”

Two of this year's nominees were selected as District 1 finalists and participated in a two-day interview process in Boston.

- 1) **Autumn Guillotte '18** (History & Philosophy; Honors Program)
- 2) **Madison Cook-Hines '19** (Theatre)

In order to prepare them for this event, a mock cocktail reception hosted by President Dooley and Rev. Baker Dooley at their home was quickly arranged. Faculty and administrators served as interviewers and our Fulbright nominees served as their peers. Several mock interviews were arranged for each finalist as well – once again calling upon a small army of volunteers. While neither alumna was ultimately selected for the scholarship it is important to note that Rhodes District 1 is one of the more – if not *the* most – competitive districts, owing to the sheer number of excellent universities in New England. Only 14 finalists are selected from each of the 16 Rhodes districts. Each district then selects two scholars the end of the two-day interview process. The URI finalists were the only two representing a public institution in Rhodes District 1. Of the other finalists, five of came from Harvard, two from Yale, two from Georgetown, one from Boston College, one from Columbia, and one from the Naval Academy.

Christopher Parisella '20 (Political Science & French; Honors Program) was our third nominee to the Rhodes (District 2).

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP Nominees

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.

Our 2020 nominees were:

- 1) **Carlee Kerr '21**(Gender & Women's Studies & History)
- 2) **Jay Rumas '21** (History & Political Science; Honors Program)

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 2019-2020 results are noted below.

1. One sophomore marine biology student, **Myles Wagner '22**, was selected as **NOAA HOLLINGS SCHOLAR** this year. Over the course of two years, he will each receive \$19,000 in scholarship monies, a 10-week paid internship at a NOAA location, and

participate in several NOAA-organized professional development conferences. *Since the program's inception in 2005, twenty-nine URI sophomores have been named Hollings Scholars!*

2. Five URI students and alumni were awarded **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (NSF GRFP)**.

- 1) **Megan Guidry**, an incoming doctoral student in marine ecology
- 2) **Michelle Hauer**, a doctoral student studying oceanography
- 3) **Justin Hayes '20**, (Chemical Engineering and Spanish) to support his doctoral studies at Northeastern University
- 4) **Alexa Leone '20** (ocean engineering) to support her graduate work in ocean engineering at URI
- 5) **Elaine Shen**, a doctoral student studying marine ecology at URI

Current graduate students Elizabeth Hunter and Taylor Lindsay and URI alumni Dawn Parry and Megan McSweeney received honorable mentions from the NSF GRFP.

3. Two URI students were selected for the highly competitive U.S. Department of State **Critical Language Scholarship (CLS)**.

- 1) **Cate McLaughlin '23** (International Studies, French, and GLAS-Arabic; Honors Program)
- 2) **Patrick Thompson '22** (Mechanical Engineering and Chinese)

While these 8 to 10-week summer programs were canceled due to covid-19, McLaughlin was later selected to participate in a smaller virtual version of the program.

4. The United States Department of State hosts a special program at Howard University each summer to encourage students who are traditionally underrepresented in the foreign service to explore that career path through the **Charles B. Rangel Summer Enrichment Program**. The program is small and highly selective with an acceptance rate of about 1%. Timothy Berard '20 (Political Science & Africana Studies) was URI's first-ever Rangel Scholar. While the program was held virtually this year, Timothy found it very worthwhile and motivating.

5. Freshman and ROTC cadet **Jack Eustis '23** (International Studies & GLAS-Arabic) was selected for **Project Global Officer (Project GO)** summer program in Arabic, which was converted to a virtual program for the 2020 session.

6. **Cierra Wornum '21** was named **2020 Public Policy & International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute (JSI) Fellow** at the University of Michigan. The PPIA JSI is a fully-funded rigorous 8-week academic graduate level preparation program for undergraduate juniors from traditionally underrepresented groups who are 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.

In the Fall of 2019 Wornum had been selected for a **PPIA Public Service Weekend** regional event in Albany, New York. Special thanks to the College of Art and Sciences for providing supplemental funding to enable her to attend – **it surely contributed to her success as a JSI applicant.**

7. Since its inception in 2011 the **BEATRICE S. DEMERS FOREIGN LANGUAGE FELLOWS PROGRAM** has awarded over \$1.9M to URI students, who receive preference in the competition. This year 16 URI students were collectively awarded \$225,000 from the Demers to support immersion experiences in foreign languages. Most awards were \$15,000. Of the 16 fellows, we have 1 for Japanese; 2 each for Arabic, French and Italian; 3 for German and Spanish, and Chinese. (Most recipients are part of the International Engineering Program or the Chinese Flagship and have a foreign language major.) Students have been permitted to postpone their studies until next year due to current covid-19 travel restrictions.

- 1) **Emma Arcand** (Chinese)
- 2) **Tim Berard** (Arabic)
- 3) **Daniel Bor** (German)
- 4) **Lila Bovinski** (Spanish)
- 5) **Jake Carlino** (Italian)
- 6) **Jacob Colon** (Spanish)
- 7) **Natalie Cruz** (French)
- 8) **Stephen Davia** (Italian)
- 9) **Liam Heggarty** (German)
- 10) **Benjamin Hendrickson** (Spanish)
- 11) **Linda Hussein** (Arabic)
- 12) **Luke Martin-Jourdenais** (French)
- 13) **Domenic Medina** (Chinese)
- 14) **Pablo Vargas** (German)
- 15) **Brendan Violet** (Japanese)
- 16) **Ying Wu** (Chinese)

8. 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 any student who requests assistance. Alumni of the Gilman program are granted non-competitive hiring eligibility for federal employment and receive access to special career development and networking events.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, 8 URI applicants were awarded Gilman Scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000. While the initial awards were for study abroad taking place in the summer of 2020 or the 2020-2021 academic year, the program has been incredibly flexible in accommodating students who request a deferral or a change to the program or country. They are also permitting students to apply the funds towards a virtual study or internship abroad program.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1) Timothy Berard | Jordan |
| 2) Raymond Turrisi | France |
| 3) Caling Chen | Taiwan |
| 4) Chelsea Fortes | Spain |
| 5) Kelsey Duggan
(Declined) | Spain |
| 6) Kyle Stewart | Germany |
| 7) Megan Elias | Italy |
| 8) Nathaniel Sandoval | Spain |

9. **Markeem Rodrigues '23** (Computer Science and Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design; Honors Program and Talent Development) is a recipient of 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.
10. **Miles Schelling '20** (MS Geosciences) has been awarded a **Christianson Grant** from the InterExchange Foundation, which will allow him to work with the Energy and Resources Institute in the Indian city of Panjim to continue his work on providing clean drinking water to a remote mountain village (Nersa). He will continue testing the filter system he developed there as part of his master's thesis and survey the residents again. If he can attract the necessary funding, he also hopes to rebuild a water pipeline.
11. **Sam Foer '20** (Philosophy, Political Science; Honors Program) was selected as a Tikvah Summer Fellow by the Tikvah Fund. Fellows “study the great political and cultural questions facing modern Jews, and ... undertake independent projects and internships aimed at strengthening the Jewish people and the Jewish nation.”
12. Several URI students were recipients of **National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU)** for the summer of 2020. 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. One such success story is:
- Blaine Lynch-Gadaleta '22** (Geology and Psychology; Honors Program) who was selected to participate in an REU at Columbia University with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. (This was subsequently moved to virtual for summer 2020.)
13. **Alexander Gonzalez Trejo '23** (Health Studies), was selected by the Rhode Island Foundation for the **Lily and Catello Sorrentino Memorial Scholarship** (\$1,000), which is awarded annually to an undergraduate 25 years or older with financial need

In addition to the aforementioned, the office has provided guidance and advising to students applying to graduate programs and various smaller awards and opportunities.

As always, 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)

Karl Aspelund
Martin Bide
Tom Boving

Dawn Cardace
Mary Cloud
Amy Correia
Lynne Derbyshire
Cheryl Foster
Graham Forrester
Jessica Fraser
Brian Gerber
Mary Healey Jamiel
Kristin Johnson
Brian Krueger
Hilda Llorens
Alex Magidow
Kelly Mahoney
Rod Mather
Liam Malloy
Kathleen McIntyre
Ric McIntyre
Elizabeth Mendenhall
Rebecca Millsop
Cate Morrison
Shanna Pearson- Merkowitz
Nicolai Petro
Iñaki Pérez-Ibáñez
Betty Rambur
Joanna Ravello
Michael Rice
Andrea Rusnock
Peter Snyder
Nancy Stricklin
Judith Swift
Elin Torrell
Ann Marie Vaccaro
Ping Xu
Rachel Walshe
Travis Williams
...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.

APPENDIX

URI Press Releases/Web Stories

Boren

<https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-students-win-boren-scholarship-fellowship-to-study-languages-overseas/>

Christianson

<https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-grad-student-awarded-grant-to-help-village-in-india-improve-drinking-water/>

CLS/Project GO

<https://today.uri.edu/news/two-uri-freshmen-awarded-prestigious-scholarships-for-summer-language-studies-abroad/>

Fulbright

<https://today.uri.edu/news/five-uri-students-awarded-prestigious-fulbright-grants/>

Hollings

<https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-sophomore-awarded-prestigious-hollings-scholarship-from-noaa-2/>

NSF GRFP

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

PPIA/Rangel

<https://today.uri.edu/news/uri-students-selected-for-prestigious-summer-programs-in-international-affairs-public-policy/>

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 2019, HPAC nominated three students for the EIP; one of these then decided not to continue in the process. Of the two remaining nominees, one was not selected for interview at Brown; the other was interviewed and admitted. This fall, we have six applicants for nomination who will be interviewed by HPAC in November.

- *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 2020 admission cycle, four applicants were nominated to JWU. Of these, two were interviewed and accepted and one matriculated to JWU (the second admitted applicant decided to attend a different PA program). The other two applicants declined to be interviewed, choosing instead to accept offers of admission elsewhere.

For the 2021 admission cycle, five students were nominated to JWU; of these, four have been admitted and one placed on the wait list.

2020 Admission—Outcomes as of October 28, 2020

	Admitted	Not Admitted	Outcome Not Yet Known
Medical School (MD, DO, foreign)	15	2	0
Dental	5	0	0

Optometry	2	0	0
Physician Assistant	8	2	2
Other <i>Direct-entry nursing, podiatry, physical therapy, post-baccalaureate premedical program.</i>	4	0	1
TOTAL	34	4	3

Appendix A

Honors Teaching Faculty, 2019-2020

The following faculty members were selected to teach Honors Program courses during the 2019-2020 academic year:

URI College of Arts & Sciences: Stephen Barber, Associate Director (English); Carol Betensky, Professor (English); Jiangping Cai Lecturer (Languages); Mark Comerford, Associate Professor (Mathematics); Madeline Derbyshire, Associate Professor (Communication Studies); Rachel Dicioccio, Professor, (Communication Studies); Theresa Devine, Teaching Professor (Economics); Erin Earle, Lecturer (Honors Program); David Faflik, Professor (English); Louis Fosu, Faculty of Practice (Political Science); Douglas Gobeille, Senior Lecturer (Physics); Carolyn Hames, Lecturer (Honors Program); Xiaoyan Hu, Senior Lecturer (Languages); Scott Jensen, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Heather Johnson, Teaching Professor (Writing & Rhetoric); Carnell Jones Jr., Director (Enrollment Services); Leonard Kahn, Professor (Physics); William Kinnersley, Assistant Professor (Mathematics); Erik Loomis, Associate Professor (History); Liam Malloy, Associate Professor (Economics); Kathleen McIntyre, Assistant Professor (GWS); Arthur Mead, Professor (Economics); Rebecca Millsop, Lecturer (Ad Hoc, Philosophy); Humberto Miranda, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Sara Murphy, Lecturer (Ad Hoc, Honors Program); Barry O'Connor, Lecturer.(Ad Hoc, Honors Program); 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); Louann Roth, Senior Lecturer (Writing & Rhetoric); Andrea Rusnock, Professor (History); Evelyn Sterne, Associate Professor, (History); Judith Swift, Director (Coastal Institute); Michael Tamaro, Teaching Professor (Physics); Sarah Toatley, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Bethany Vaccaro, Part Time Faculty (Honors Program); Alan Verskin, Associate Professor (History); Travis Williams, Associate Professor (English); Yu Wu, Assistant Professor (Languages); Qingyu Yang, Lecturer (Ad Hoc, Languages); James Ward, Senior Lecturer (History); Justin Wyatt, Associate Professor (Harrington School); Yiping Zhang, Lecturer (Languages); Thomas Zorabedian, Lecturer (Ad Hoc, Honors Program)

URI College of Business Administration: Silvia Dorado-Banacloche, Associate Professor; Linda Welters, Professor (Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design).

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

URI College of Engineering: Christopher Hunter, Associate Professor (Civil and Environmental Engineering); Bahram Nassersharif, Distinguished University Professor (Mechanical, Industrial and Systems Engineering).

URI College of Health Sciences: Allison Harper, Teaching Professor (Kinesiology);
Brian Quilliam, Dean (Health Sciences).

URI Graduate School of Oceanography: Arthur Spivack, Professor, (GSO).

URI School of Education: Jay A. Fogleman Jr, Associate Professor (School of Education)

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

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

URI Pre-Health: Andrew Simmons, Assistant Director (Pre-Health Professions)