

To: Lisa Bourbonnais, Coordinator, Faculty Senate

From: Lynne Derbyshire, Director, Honors Program

Re: Honors Program Annual Report 2020-2021

Date: Jan 21, 2022

I submit the enclosed informational report to the Faculty Senate for its consideration. This report summarizes activities of the Honors Program during the past 2020-2021 academic year.

## ANNUAL REPORT HONORS PROGRAM 2020-2021

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)

Eligible accepted students AY 2020-21

3.5 > GPA and 1300 > SAT/27 > ACT = 58 students

3.8 > GPA (no SAT/ACT) = 1414 students

Row Labels	Count of ID	Count of ID
2+ Races	42	2.83%
Asian	59	3.97%
Black/African American	33	2.22%
Hispanic/Latino	96	6.46%
Not Specified	21	1.41%
White	1171	78.86%
(blank)	63	4.24%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1485</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## **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 requirements and their signature on a statement confirming their intention to complete the entire program.

1. *Early Registration advising:*  
AY 2020-2021: 396 students declaring an intent to complete the Honors Program.

## **C. Courses and Enrollment**

During the Fall 2020 semester, the Honors Program offered 58 Honors courses (in addition to Honors Projects, Honors Directed Study and Administrative Internships).

In the Spring 2021 semester, we offered 43 Honors courses (in addition to Honors Projects, Administrative Internships and Honors Directed Study).

### Class Enrollments

- Fall 2020: 819 students
- Spring 2021: 680 students

## **D. Faculty and Staff**

The Honors faculty is drawn from seven of the University's colleges. Over the past several years we have consciously attempted to increase the disciplinary diversity of our course offerings.

## **E. Honors Colloquium**

The Fall 2020 Honors Colloquium, *Challenging Expectations: Disability in the 21st Century* was coordinated by Tiffani Kisler (College of Health Sciences), Anita Jacobson (College of Pharmacy) along with advisory committee members, Emily Clapham (School of Education), Anne-Marie Dupre (Physical Therapy Department) along with the assistance of Deborah Gardiner and Anna Blake of the Honors Program.

The University of Rhode Island's 2020 Honors Colloquium, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act, focused on the views and expectations of those affected by disability, steering away from the impossible to the possible.

2020-2021 was fully virtual and marked the eleventh 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.

## **F. Honors Project Virtual Conference and Awards Ceremony**

Honors Projects were presented at the twenty-fourth annual Honors Project Conference on April 28, 2021. 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 *thirty-five* of these faculty members were not teaching an Honors course in 2020-2021. Together with the *fourth-five* faculty teaching Honors courses, this brings the total number of faculty participating in the Honors Program during 2020-2021 to *eighty* (80).

## **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 five 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 HPAC 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.

Applicant for other types of health profession training programs, including physician assistant, physical therapy, nurse practitioner (direct-entry), and occupational therapy receive support as well. Though these students and recent alumni do not need the HPAC letter, they still seek assistance with all facets of their applications, including essays, assessment of competitiveness, time lines, and asking for letters of recommendation.

### **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 2021, HPAC nominated three students for the EIP, each of which has been offered an interview with the Admission Committee at AMS.

In the fall of 2020 HPAC nominated five applicants; each were invited to interview with the AMS Admission Committee and three were admitted.

- *The URI-Johnson and Wales Master of Physician Assistant Studies Linkage.* Through this agreement, any student who meets the requirements set forth by JWU is nominated by URI. Nominees are then given the opportunity to interview with the Admission Committee at JWU. There is no limit to the number of students URI may nominate, nor does JWU have a quota of students they must accept. The linkage agreement, therefore, guarantees an interview for any student nominated by URI though acceptance is contingent on a successful interview.

For the 2021 admission cycle, five students were nominated to JWU; of these, four were admitted; one was placed on the wait list but ultimately did not receive an offer of admission.

**2021 Health Profession School Admission—Known Outcomes as of January 6, 2022**

	Admitted	Not Admitted	Outcome Not Yet Known
Medical School (MD, DO, foreign)	14	3*	0
Dental	1	1	0
Optometry	0	0	0
Physician Assistant	9	4	6**
Other	5	0	3**

*Direct-entry nursing, podiatry,  
physical therapy, post-baccalaureate  
premedical programs, MPH  
programs, OT programs*

TOTAL	29	8	9
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*\* One applicant not admitted to medical school was admitted to a post-baccalaureate premedical record enhancement program.*

*\*\* Pending final outcome data from the various application services.*

Along with admission processes, Pre-Health Advising also assists students applying for various internships, special programs, and post-graduation “gap year” jobs. During the 2020-2021 academic year, we assisted 14 students applying for these opportunities either by writing a letter of recommendation, sharing job postings, and/or assisting with the application process (e.g., reviewing personal statements or interview preparation). Of these 14 students, 12 had successful applications; one student was ultimately not eligible for the program to which he applied; and one student did not report their outcome. The opportunities to which students applied included:

- Month of Medicine at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University
- MARC U\*STAR Program, University of Rhode Island
- Science and Engineering Fellows, University of Rhode Island
- Intramural Research Training Award, National Institutes of Health
- Medical Assistant, South County Dermatology
- RI IMBRE, University of Rhode Island

Summary of all applicants:

- 60 students or alumni worked with URI Pre-Health Advising on professional school admission processes and/or applications for pre-professional opportunities.
- 41 were either admitted to professional school or offered jobs, internships, or admission to special programs.
- Eight were not successful with their applications.
- One was not eligible for the program to which they applied.
- 10 outcomes are not yet known.

## **NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS, AY 2020-2021**

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 recent alumni.

For awards requiring formal institutional nomination or endorsement (Boren, Fulbright, Goldwater, Marshall, Rhodes, Truman, Udall) 52% became finalists (including alternates) or awardees during the AY 20-21 competition cycle. Nominees for these awards hailed from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education & Professional Studies, Engineering, the Environment & Life Sciences, and Health Sciences.

### **3 BOREN AWARDS (2 Scholars & 1 Fellow) and 2 Alternates**

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 \$25,000 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 3 of our 6 applicants were selected, and two others were named as alternates. Our rate of success continues to be much greater than the national average. *Of the 26 Boren Scholars and 5 Fellows we have had in the history of the program, 20 have been selected in the past 5 years at a cumulative success rate of 68% for the undergraduate scholarship and 83% for the graduate fellowship (not including 7 additional alternates).*

Our 2021 **Boren Scholars (Undergraduate)** are:

- 1) **Katelyn Dubois '22**, a Chinese Flagship, Pre-Law, and Honors Program student with majors in Chinese and International Studies. Kate is currently in Taiwan for the academic year as a Boren Scholar. She aspires to a career in support of international human rights.
- 2) **Kaylee Goyette '22**, an Honors Program student with a minor in Leadership Studies, who is also participating in both the Chinese Flagship Program and the International Studies and Diplomacy Program. Kaylee is also studying in Taiwan this year and aspires to serve as a translation and interpretation expert.

A third undergraduate applicant, **Jack Eustis '23**, who was selected as an alternate, went on to win a different award highlighted later in this report, as did our sixth and final applicant, **Jay Rumas '21**.

Our 2021 **Boren Fellow (Graduate)** is:

- 1) **Adriana Wilding '19, MA'21**, a graduate student in International Relations. Adriana was selected for Boren's special Turkish Flagship Language Initiative which began with a special 6-week summer program through UW-Madison. Unfortunately, the semester portion of the program, which was to take place in Azerbaijan, was canceled due to covid concerns.

## **5 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.

Eight of our seventeen nominees to the Fulbright 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 2021 Grantees are:**

- 1) **Meg Jones**, a doctoral student in **Education**, has been selected for a research award to **Finland**. In cooperation with faculty at the University of Helsinki and its AGORA for the Social Justice and Equality in Education group, Meg is examining critical topic inclusion in Finnish teacher preparation programs and curriculum with a particular focus on LGBTQ+ inclusive practices. This research will form the basis for a section of her dissertation.
- 2) **Eliya Baron Lopez**, a May 2021 graduate of the MA in **Marine Affairs**, was selected for a research award to **South Korea**. Her research project, "Marine Litter Management: A South Korea Case Study" is an extension of her Master's thesis research, which investigates the unique and significant approach taken by South Korea to deal with marine plastic pollution. Eliya is collaborating with researchers at the Ocean Policy Institute of the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology.
- 3) **Jay Rumas** was selected for a research grant to the Slovak Republic. A May 2021 **Honors Program** graduate from North Smithfield, RI with a double major in **history** and **political science**, is researching the appeal of populist rhetoric on Rusyn versus Slovak individuals in Prešov, Slovakia. Jay is also studying the Slovak language through his affiliation with the University of Prešov.
- 4) **Zachary Smith**, a 2020 graduate with majors in **electrical engineering**, **German** and **Chinese**, was selected for a special Fulbright award to pursue a Master's in Energy Engineering at National Cheng Kung University. As an undergraduate Zach participated in both the **Chinese Flagship** and **International Engineering Program**. He was a 2019 **Boren Scholar** to support his Flagship Capstone Year in Taiwan, and



a 2017 **Demers Foreign Language Fellow** which supported a year of study in Germany.

- 5) **Wila Matos**, a May 2021 graduate from Providence with a major in **Africana Studies**, was been selected for the **English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program** in Brazil. A **Talent Development Scholar** and first-generation college student, Wila has extensive experience as a teaching and learning assistant in the Providence school system, At URI she served as a **Civic Engagement Leader** and **URI 101 mentor**.

Additionally, the following three students/alumni were **semi-finalists** for Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Awards:

- 1) **Darien DiNaro '21** (HDF) Slovak Republic
- 2) **Malia Erickson '20** (WRT & GER) Laos
- 3) **Lizmaylin Ramos '20** (BIO & PSY) Brazil

URI's other 9 Fulbright nominees were:

1. **Timothy Berard '20** Political Science, Africana Studies
2. **Samuel Foer '20** Political Science, Philosophy
3. **Rebecca Sock MA'21** MA International Relations
4. **Owen Manahan '20** Health Studies
5. **Nina Kostic MA'21** History
6. **Megan Elias '21** Anthropology, Italian
7. **Matthew Meigs '20** WRT, Film
8. **Johanna Leffler '20** French & International Studies
9. **Christopher Salazar '19** Mechanical Engineering, Spanish

## **2 GOLDWATER SCHOLARS**

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 2021 cycle, URI nominated three students, two of whom were named as scholars:

- 1) **Raymond Turrisi '22** (Mechanical Engineering & Computer Science)
- 2) **Myles Wagner '22** (Marine Biology and Cell and Molecular Biology; Honors Program)

The third nominee, **Hailey Hendricks '23**, a chemistry major in the Honors Program, will be nominated again in 2022.

## **1 MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP Nominee**

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. We nominated one student for this award in the fall of 2020: **Timothy Berard '21** (PSC & AAF).

### **1 RHODES SCHOLARSHIP Nominee**

In the fall of 2020 we nominated one alumnus, **Samuel Foer '20** (PHL & PSC), 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.”

### **1 TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST**

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.

In the spring 2021 we nominated two juniors, one of whom was selected as a finalist:

- 1) **Jacob Cordeiro '21** (PSC; Honors Program) was selected as a **Truman Finalist** and interviewed before an 8-person panel.
- 2) **Katelyn Dubois '22** (ISD & CHN; Chinese Flagship & Honors Program) was also nominated.

### **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 2020-2021 results are noted below.*

1. **Four** sophomores were selected as **2021 NOAA HOLLINGS SCHOLARS** this year. Over the course of two years, they 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. They are:
  - 1) **Rosalind Bailey** (Marine Biology)
  - 2) **Emily Drappeau** (Marine Biology & Marine Affairs)

- 3) **Sebastian Murray-Brown** (Marine Affairs & ENRE)
- 4) **Elizabeth (Eliza) Taylor** (Ocean Engineering)

Since the program's inception in 2005, thirty-three URI sophomores have been named Hollings Scholars!

2. One URI student, **Shawn Fennell** (MA International Relations) was selected for the highly competitive (<10%) U.S. Department of State **CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP (CLS)**. While the summer program to Oman was canceled due to covid-19, Fennell was able to participate in a virtual version of the Arabic immersion program.
3. For a second year in a row ROTC cadet **Jack Eustis '23** (International Studies & GLAS-Arabic) was selected for **PROJECT GLOBAL OFFICER (Project GO)** summer program in Arabic. Once again, the program (which was to be held in Oman), was converted to a virtual platform.
4. **One URI graduate student and one alumna** were awarded **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (NSF GRFP)**.
  - 1) **Eman Khwaja**, a **marine biology** graduate student mentored by Jacqueline Webb
  - 2) **Cassandra Chartier '19 (Chemistry)** to pursue graduate studies in chemistry at Columbia University

Three additional URI graduate student applicants also received **honorable mention** in the competition: **Katherine Roche, Samantha Schofield** and **Anna Schrecengost**.

5. Since its inception in 2011 the **BEATRICE S. DEMERS FOREIGN LANGUAGE FELLOWS PROGRAM** has awarded over \$2M to URI students, who receive preference in the competition. This year 17 students, 1 faculty member and 1 professional staff member from URI were collectively awarded over \$221,000 from the Demers to support immersion experiences in foreign languages.

- |    |                           |                 |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) | Janelle Amoako            | Twi/Ghana       |
| 2) | William (Jacob) Arena     | French/France   |
| 3) | Filippo Vizzani           | Spanish/Spain   |
| 4) | Isabella Church           | French/France   |
| 5) | Heather DiFazio           | German/Germany  |
| 6) | Katelyn Dubois            | Mandarin/Taiwan |
| 7) | Jack Eustis               | Arabic/Jordan   |
| 8) | Ian Fitzgerald            | German/Germany  |
| 9) | Jessica Frasier (Faculty) | Arabic/Egypt    |

- |     |                         |                  |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10) | Kaylee Goyette          | Mandarin/Taiwan  |
| 11) | Kyle Keefe              | Japanese/Japan   |
| 12) | Jack Ryan Mazzarelli    | Mandarin/Taiwan  |
| 13) | Nuzhat Islam            | Mandarin/Taiwan  |
| 14) | Melissa Schenck (Staff) | German/Germany   |
| 15) | Joellyn Speredelozzi    | Italian/Italy    |
| 16) | Alexander Toscano       | Italian/Italy    |
| 17) | Alex Tsang              | Mandarian/Taiwan |
| 18) | Unknown                 |                  |
| 19) | Unknown                 |                  |

3. 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 2020-2021 academic year, 8 URI applicants were awarded Gilman Scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,000. The program has been incredibly flexible in accommodating students who request a deferral or a change to the program or country due to covid-19 related travel advisories. They are also permitting students to apply the funds towards a virtual study or internship abroad program.

<b>Amari McDonald</b>	Recipient	Taiwan	Academic Year 2021	CNLA
<b>Gabriel Varga</b>	Declined Award	Spain	Spring 2022	
<b>Galo Varga</b>	Recipient	Spain	Spring 2022	
<b>Steven Lee</b>	Recipient	Germany	Academic Year 2021	
<b>Tong-Xin Shi</b>	Recipient	Taiwan	Summer 2021	
<b>Valeria Aguilar</b>	Recipient	South Korea	Spring 2022	
<b>William Arena</b>	Recipient	France	Academic Year 2021	
<b>Katelyn Dubois</b>	Recipient	Taiwan	Academic Year 2021	

4. **Megan Elias '21** (Italian & Anthropology) and **Nathaniel Sandoval '21** (Political Science) were awarded grants from the **MICHAEL P. METCALF MEMORIAL AND CHRISTINE T. GRINAVIC ADVENTURER'S FUND**, administered by the Rhode Island Foundation. Megan used her funds to attend an archaeology field school in Ireland, and Nathaniel participated in a service-learning opportunity in Nicaragua and Hawaii.

5. Two Talent Development Sophomores, who are also members of the Honors Program, were selected to participate in the **MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP FOR TOMORROW (MLT) CAREER PREP PROGRAM**. They are:

- 1) **Markeem Rodrigues '23** (Computer Science and Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design; Honors Program)
- 2) **Warith Balogun '23** (Computer Science; Honors Program)

MLT equips and emboldens high-achieving women and men from underrepresented communities—African American, Latinx, and Native American—to realize their full potential, to make a mark, and make a difference. Career Prep Fellows are provided with 18 months of one-on-one coaching and an accelerating network of 8,000 MLT Rising Leaders. Fellows gain career-accelerating skills not taught in classrooms, cultivate personal clarity, and connect with top employers for potential internships and full-time roles across a variety of industries.

6. Two Chinese Flagship students were recipients of the **FREEMAN AWARDS FOR STUDY IN ASIA** (Freeman-ASIA) scholarships to support their Capstone Year Abroad in Taiwan:

**Dylan Bracken '22**, Chinese & International Studies

**Alex Tsang'22**, Chinese & Wildlife Conservation Biology

7. **Gillian Hodge '23** (International Students & Chinese; Honors Program, Chinese Flagship) was selected as the Rhode Island Delegate to the Henry Clay Center's **COLLEGE TO CONGRESS**, a two-week summer program for undergraduates interested in public policy, politics, diplomacy and modern leadership.
8. **Timothy Berard '20** was selected by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport to participate in the **NORTH AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL ASSISTANTS PROGRAM** (aka *Auxiliares de Conversación*) which places US and Canadian young adults in English language classrooms in Spain for a year.
9. **Malia Erickson '20** was selected by the **FRENCH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM IN FRANCE** (TAPIF, aka *Assistants de Lenguage*) which places North American young adults in public classrooms throughout France and its overseas departments for a year.
10. 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.

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	Amy Correia
Martin Bide	Lynne Derbyshire
Tom Boving	Cheryl Foster
Dawn Cardace	Graham Forrester
Mary Cloud	Jessica Frasier

Brian Gerber  
Rabia Hos  
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.

URI Press Releases/Web Stories can be found at: <https://web.uri.edu/fellowships/news-and-events/>























