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For Immediate Release

Three Macaulay Students Earn Critical Language Scholarships to Study Abroad

(May 08, 2015, New York, NY) – Ilana Gelb '16 Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College, **Samuel Rubinstein '16** Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College and **Yelena Suponya '15** Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College were awarded Critical Language Scholarships and an opportunity to study abroad. The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) program is an intensive overseas language study program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is part of a U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

Gelb will be traveling to Jaipur, India to study Hindi; Rubinstein will be traveling to Meknes, Morocco to study Arabic; and Suponya will be traveling to Beijing, China to study Mandarin. Gelb, Rubinstein and Suponya were among 500 students who were nationally selected from more than 5,000 applicants. The three students join five previous CLS winners from Macaulay since 2009.

Ilana Gelb is also in the CUNY B.A. program. She is majoring in a compilation of human rights, sustainable development, anthropology, and political science. Gelb, who was also a New York State finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, hopes to use her stay in India, as well as her volunteer work, to learn more about the dynamics of gender based violence and human trafficking, and better prepare for a career in preventing and mitigating gender-based violence.

Samuel Rubinstein is a junior majoring in economics and currently serves on Baruch College's Undergraduate Student Government as vice president of academic affairs. Rubinstein's family is originally from Minsk, Belarus, and they moved to the United States in 1993. He is the first person in his family to be born in the United States and says he's looking forward to his experience in Morocco that begins on May 31.

Yelena Suponya is in the Chinese Flagship program at Hunter College that also provided her with the opportunity to spend last summer in Taiwan to study Mandarin. Eventually Suponya plans to go to graduate school to become an environmental engineer. Another passion and source of activism for her is environmentalism, and she is vice president of Hunter's Sustainability Project. The senior wants to combine her two interests to eventually help China establish more environmentally friendly technologies.

About Macaulay Honors College

Macaulay Honors College at The City University of New York offers exceptional students a uniquely personalized education with access to the vast resources of the nation's largest urban university and New York City itself. Selected for their academic and leadership potential, Macaulay students receive a full-tuition scholarship, a laptop and technology support, and an Opportunities Fund to pursue global learning, research and service opportunities. Macaulay students enroll in one of eight CUNY senior colleges (Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Hunter, John Jay, Lehman, Queens and the College of Staten Island). For more information, see macaulay.cuny.edu.

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