



Macaulay Honors College
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Macaulay Honors College Students Receive Record Number of Prestigious Scholarships to Advance Their Research and Graduate Studies

(June 2, 2015) This year, **31** Macaulay Honors College students and alumni claimed highly competitive, merit-based awards and fellowships--more than ever before.

Seven Macaulay students, including one alumna, have received Fulbright awards; one student won the prestigious Harry S. Truman scholarship, the fifth Macaulay Honors College student among nine CUNY students to win the award. Two Macaulay students claimed the competitive Barry Goldwater Scholarship for the sixth year in a row, while three students received honorable mentions. Four alumni will receive funds to continue their graduate studies with National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, and for the first time two Macaulay students have won the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

We are thrilled for our students and graduates receiving these notable recognitions for their scholarship, dedication and ambition. Together, these impressive distinctions conferred upon Macaulay's top students underscore their achievement in areas such as science, medicine, education, and community service.

It is gratifying to see their hard work and intense preparation recognized and we look forward to their future contributions locally, nationally and globally in their chosen fields.

Sincerely,

Ann Kirschner
Dean

The Fulbright Program

Regarded as one the most prestigious awards programs in the world, it is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program. The Fulbright has helped to nurture 43 Nobel laureates since its founding in 1946.

Alyssa Blumenthal '15 (Queens College and CUNY BA) is the recipient of a 2015-16 U.S. Student Fulbright Study/Research Award to research renewable natural gas at the Bio-Gas Research Center of the Linköping University in Sweden. **Anastasia Korolkova** '09 (Baruch College) has received a Fulbright Study/Research for study in Mexico where she plans to study the effectiveness of peer education as a youth empowerment tool in order to prevent

adolescent pregnancy in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

A Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) joins a classroom abroad to provide assistance to teachers of English to non-native English-speakers. English Teaching Assistants help teach the English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for U.S. culture.

The Macaulay seniors who received a Fulbright ETA award are **Carlsky Belizaire** '15 (Queens College) who will teach in Taiwan, **Karissa Caputo** '15 (College at Queens College) who will teach in Kinmen (Taiwan), **Kathryn Cox** '15 (Queens College) will teach in Cyprus, **Bianca Malhotra** '15 (Hunter College) who will teach in Turkey, **Natasha Masub** '15 (Brooklyn College) who will teach in Bangladesh, and **Brian Medina** '15 (Hunter College) who will teach in the Ukraine.

Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program

The 49-year-old program restricts universities to nominating just four undergraduates for consideration each year for this federally funded, highly competitive one- and two-year grants program for undergraduate study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Awardees must have the potential to make significant contributions to their fields.

Zachary Gershon '16 (Hunter College) and **Antonios “Andoni” Mourdoukoutas** '15 (City College) both received a Goldwater Scholarship. Zachary plans to conduct research into the mechanisms of gene expression effecting learning disabilities. Andoni plans to conduct research in neural engineering.

Goldwater Honorable Mentions

Stephanie Azzopardi '16 (Hunter College), **Tamar Lichter** '17 (Queens College) and **Christina Moawad** '16 (City College).

Ernest S. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarships

Named for former U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), the Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program provides selected undergraduate applicants with a scholarship award for two academic years of full-time study and a 10-week, full-time internship during the summer at a NOAA facility.

Jakob Rehmann '17 (City College) a civil engineering major and has received 2015 Hollings scholarship. Jakob also received 2015 the Powell Program award at City College.

The Immigrant Justice Corps Fellowship

Immigrant Justice Corp Community Fellows are recent college graduates who conduct outreach and legal intake in under-served neighborhoods in New York. Community

Fellowships run for two years at a salary of \$38,000 per year plus benefits.

Paula Garcia-Salazar '15 (City College) who came from Ecuador as an undocumented immigrant at age 7. She has worked with immigrants seeking asylum. **Ji Won (Stephanie) Park** '15 (Hunter College) is an immigrant from Korea who studied the literature and history of marginalized people. Stephanie has assisted New York City immigrants with immigration applications.

Critical Language Scholarships

The Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS) is an intensive overseas language study program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is part of a U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

Ilana Gelb '16 (Baruch College), **Samuel Rubinstein** '16 (Baruch College) and **Yelena Suponya** '17 (Hunter College) each received the 2015 CLS. Ilana will be traveling to Jaipur, India to study Hindi; Samuel will be traveling to Meknes, Morocco to study Arabic; and Yelena will travel to Beijing, China to study Mandarin.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

This year alone, the Fellowship Program received 14,000 applications and granted 2,000 of the coveted national awards. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in science, technology, engineering and math who are pursuing research-based graduate degrees.

These Macaulay alumni each received an NSF award for their graduate studies: **Sankha Ghatak** '14 (City College) is studying engineering at the University of California, San Diego; **Benjamin Rudshteyn** '13 (Brooklyn College) is studying chemistry at Yale University; **Adrianna Trusiak** '14 (City College) is studying geosciences at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and **Racheli Werberger** '13 (Queens College) is studying life sciences at the University of California, San Francisco.

Colin Powell Fellowship at Baruch College

Every year the prestigious Colin Powell Fellows program funds two high-achieving Baruch College juniors or seniors. The intent of the fellowship is to interest outstanding young people in the possibility of pursuing careers in the State Department.

Konstantin Dukhovnyy '16 (Baruch College) is the recipient of the Powell fellowship award this year. Konstantin currently works for the Department of State in the United Nations.

Jonas E. Salk Scholarship

The Salk program was created by CUNY in 1955 to honor Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the 1934 graduate of City College who discovered the polio vaccine. The Salk Scholarship identifies students entering the fields of medicine and the biological sciences who are most likely to make an impact on medicine and research. Eight awards are given out annually.

Half of this year's Salk awards went to four Macaulay students: **Ebrahim Afshinneko** '15 (Queens College) who has been admitted to New York Medical College; **Anna Kozlova** '15 (Brooklyn College) who has been admitted to SUNY Downstate Medical School; **Anton Mararenko** '15 (College of Staten Island) who has been admitted to the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine; and **Esther Rong** '15 (Hunter College) who has been admitted to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans

The Soros Fellowship helps children of immigrants pay for graduate school in the U.S. Each year, 30 fellows receive up to \$90,000 to help cover two years of tuition and other educational and living expenses, to study any subject at any U.S. university.

The 2015 Soros Fellows include **Amal El Bakhar** '11 (Hunter College) who is pursuing her law degree at Harvard Law School; and **Evgeniya Kim** '10 (Hunter College) who continues her studies for an MBA at the Yale School of Management.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship

The Truman Scholarship Foundation was created by Congress in 1975 to be the nation's living memorial to President Harry S. Truman. The Foundation has a mission to select and support the next generation of public service leaders.

Jake Levin '16 (Brooklyn College), who is majoring in political science, has been named a 2015 Truman Scholar.

NYC Urban Fellows Program

The Urban Fellows Program is a highly selective, nine-month fellowship combining work in Mayoral offices and City agencies with an intensive seminar series that explores current urban issues impacting public policy. The unique opportunity to work with current decision makers and assist in the implementation of public policy distinguishes the Urban Fellows Program as the premier training program in government.

Melanie Ho '15 (Baruch College) and **Brian Lamberta** '15 (Hunter College) are among this year's Urban Fellows.

Jeannette K. Watson Award

The Watson Fellowship is a three-year program that provides summer internships, mentoring, and enriched educational opportunities to promising students from

New York City partner institutions.

Stacy Aguilar '18 (John Jay College) and **Sarah Franco** '18 (Queens College) are winners of the 2015 Watson Fellowship.

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