Hunter College
The Ruth & Harold Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships

2018–19
Annual Report
We may have a scholarship with your name on it . . .
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Executive Summary

• 2018–19 established yet another high-water mark for Hunter students in nationally competitive scholarships, as three students won Hunter’s first-ever Schwarzman Scholarships, another student won Hunter’s second-ever Marshall Scholarship, and for the second year in a row a Hunter student won the coveted Luce Scholarship.

• Last year, Hunter won an unprecedented number of Jeannette K. Watson Fellowships, 4. This year we won 3 more Watson Fellowships.

• This year we had our first Hertz Fellowship candidate qualify for a first round interview. Anna ("Lisa") Iatkova was one of only 102 students chosen nationally from among 832 applicants to participate in this notoriously difficult selection process. (Iatkova also won the NSF’s Graduate Research Fellowship.)

• OPS&F saw more than 600 students in individual appointments; it gave nearly 120 students intensive criticism on multiple application essays. Thirty-four students completed one of our 4-day-long writing workshops, and 33 completed either an afternoon-long workshop tailored for first- and second-year students or one created specifically for graduating seniors.

• During the last three years, 8 of 10 students completing the 4-day writing workshop won a fellowship or admission to a top graduate program.

• With the hiring of a new Scholarship Coordinator this year, we hope to maintain our steady performance in the Fulbright Program and increase outreach in language scholarships by working closely with Hunter’s Office of Education Abroad.

• This year saw the reinvigoration of Hunter’s "Nu" Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s premiere honors society. This was an important step toward preparing for the chapter’s centennial anniversary in 2019–20.

• During the past year, 38% of student winners were not in any honors program—a 30% increase over the ratio for 2017–18 and reflection of our on-going emphasis on expanding opportunity at Hunter.
The Ruth & Harold Newman
Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships 2018–19

Director, Stephen Lassonde

Our Mission

Every student who applies for a scholarship should have learned five important things about themselves: 1) what they care about; 2) what they are good at and what good they can do in the world; 3) what their goals are in the short, mid, and long range; 4) how the different parts of their lives connect; 5) and how to tell their story. They also learn that in order to be successful in college and after, they must “create” mentors by learning how to talk to faculty who can explore with them the excitement and possibilities of their disciplines and research. They comprehend the importance of leadership and engagement in all its forms, the value of service to their communities, the utility of experiential learning in labs, internships, jobs, and extracurricular activities, the purpose of creating a network of advisors and becoming global citizens through participation in some kind of study abroad experience. They learn that they are likely to fail many times before they succeed and that the key to success in applying for fellowships is practice, reflection, and re-application. Finally, whatever success a student has in applying for fellowships, our goal is to meet each student at his or her “starting line” and help them go as far as they can go.
Unprecedented Achievement

This year Hunter cracked the Schwarzman Scholarship competition for the first time in the young history of the fellowship. Three Hunter students earned the opportunity to study at Beijing’s Tsinghua University, specializing in Business & Economics, International Affairs, and Public Policy.

The 2018–19 academic year witnessed yet another high-water mark for Hunter students in nationally competitive scholarships. Eliot David (‘19), Joy Nuga (‘17), and Christopher Sperrazza (‘19) won Hunter’s first-ever Schwarzman Scholarships.

Gabriella Cook-Francis (‘17) won Hunter’s second-ever Marshall Scholarship, sending her to Oxford where she will join Rhodes Scholar Thamara Jean (‘18) to study Political Theory. Senior Demi Moore (‘19) won Hunter’s first-ever ESI Research Education Program for post-baccalaureate study in the Graduate School at Yale University.
Spotlight

Three Hunter students won the Schwarzman Scholarship this fall, Elliot David ’19, Joy Nuga ’17 and Christopher Sperrazza ’19, and in August will travel to Beijing for a year of graduate studies in global affairs. Hunter’s Schwarzman Scholars are 3 of the 147 candidates named to this year’s cohort, chosen from among 2,887 applicants worldwide.

Only four years old, the Schwarzman Scholars Program has quickly become one of the world’s leading programs for graduate study abroad. With full funding for coursework, research, internships, living expenses, and intensive travel, Schwarzman Scholars earn a master’s at Tsinghua University, one of China’s elite academic institutions. As each student pursues a concentration in either public policy, economics and business, or international studies, all collectively explore the economic, political and cultural factors behind China’s emergence as a global power. Most important, as part of an international community of accomplished leaders and thinkers, they learn from one another and build valuable networks.

After a two-year stint in the Israeli army, Elliot David entered Hunter’s Macaulay Honors College Program and majored in Political Science and minored in Environmental Studies and Hebraic Studies. On campus, he was president and co-founder of the student club VIEW, which fosters constructive dialogue about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and last summer, he interned for the U.S. Department of Energy in its Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, before completing an energy-focused internship at the Clinton Foundation. His graduate studies will center on the alleviation of international conflicts through the use of sustainable technologies that address the conflicts’ socioeconomic and environmental causes. After receiving his master’s, he’ll continue to pursue green goals by entering political life or working in the private sector.

Joy Nuga, also a graduate of Hunter’s Macaulay Honors College, is the daughter of Nigerian immigrants and majored in economics with a double minor in math and German. Nuga earned a public policy certificate at Roosevelt House and served in the Hunter College Senate, rising to its highest student position of vice-chair. As a junior, she completed internships with UBS Private Wealth Management and the cybersecurity company iQ4/CWA, and won the nationally competitive Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University. As a senior, she was named a Franklin Williams Scholar in Energy & Geoeconomics at the Council on Foreign Relations. Currently a risk analyst at Goldman Sachs, she wants to become “a global leader in the intersection of finance and cybersecurity,” and was recently named as one

Elliot David ’19, Joy Nuga ’17, and Christopher Sperrazza ’19 with Rob Garris, Schwarzman Scholars, Director of Global Admissions
Christopher Sperrazza was raised by a single mother whom he credits for working tirelessly to make a living and pay the rent, and also for pushing him to get the best education possible. At Hunter he became the College Caucus chair for the Young Democrats of Queens County, and, determined to get the government to address poverty and homelessness, the youngest-ever member of his local Community Board in Queens.

Two years ago, as a member of Hunter’s inaugural class of Grove Fellows, a group of promising students committed to public service, he worked with former City Council Speaker Christine Quinn researching the rise in family homelessness throughout the U.S. In summer 2018, he completed a PPIA Fellowship at the University of Michigan. Sperrazza looks forward to engaging with Schwarzman Scholars from around the world, and learning how China deals with urban and rural poverty – not only within its own borders, but as the new economic power in Africa and Southeast Asia. After returning to the U.S, he says, he’ll probably continue his education – perhaps at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Then, says this Queens Young Democrat, he’ll aim for public service on the national level.

Gabriella Cook-Francis ’17

Cook-Francis graduated magna cum laude from the Roosevelt Scholars Program and the interdisciplinary Thomas Hunter Honors Program with a major in political science, a focus on international relations, and a concentration in philosophy. She hopes to follow her Oxford studies in comparative government with work as foreign policy researcher for a Washington, D.C., think tank. Her ultimate goal is to serve as a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State. The Marshall enables young Americans of extraordinary promise to earn advanced degrees in the U.K. It covers all travel, academic, and living expenses. Its goal is to provide America’s future leaders with a lasting understanding of British society and a commitment to sustaining the friendly, mutually beneficial relationships between our countries’ peoples, governments, and institutions. This year, 48 recipients were selected from a national applicant pool of over 1000. More than 170 students applied from the New York region, and Cook-Francis was one of the three selected. With her selection for the Marshall, Cook-Francis joins 2017 classmate Faiza Masood in this crowning achievement. Masood, who made history two years year ago as Hunter’s first-ever Marshall Scholar, is completing a Master’s degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. But when Cook-Francis arrives at Oxford, she’ll see another familiar face: Thamara Jean ’18, whose Rhodes Scholarship was another first in Hunter history.
Fulbright Research Scholarship, 2018-19

Darsen Hover ’18

Darsen Hover was one of four Fulbright Scholars named this year, and one of two earning a Research Scholarship (Kevin Tang, ’18, was the other). At Hunter, Hover focused on international political relations, graduated with a major in political science, and a certificate from the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program. By the time she earned her degree, she knew she wanted to promote global human rights by working in diplomacy—ideally as a policy writer at the U.S. Department of State. Her successful Fulbright proposal addresses land politics in Hungary, where the first post-Communist government distinguished itself from those of other Eastern European countries by passing a law in 2013 prohibiting foreign investment in agriculture. Asserting that legal access to civil and political human rights “becomes utterly irrelevant if you can’t feed your family,” Hover told the Fulbright Program she was “interested in examining the ways in which different political interests and voices—both Hungarian and international—played into the development of this specific policy.” She’ll spend her Fulbright year at the Central European University in Budapest, furthering her Hungarian language study and engaging in the local culture while conducting her research. After that, she plans to earn a master’s at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, which has already granted her admission for the following year.

NSF-Graduate Fellowship, 2018-19

Anna Iatckova (’19)

Anna (“Lisa”) Iatckova is one of two Hunter students awarded an NSF-Graduate Fellowship, which supports three years of graduate study at the graduate program of their choosing. Lisa also distinguished herself by becoming the first Hunter student ever to be invited to interview for one of the premier prizes for young scientists in the United States, the Hertz Fellowship. Lisa left Siberia at the age of 20 and came to New York alone, with a rudimentary knowledge of English. She’d completed three years of college in a field that promised financial security but held no interest for her: the economics of the construction industry. “Here, society is more flexible,” she says. “My questions were, ‘What do I really want to do? Where can I contribute the most?’” At first she had to split her time between her studies and various part-time jobs. But she got strong support and encouragement from Hunter scientists who recognized her potential: neurophysiologist and Distinguished Professor of Psychology H.P. Zeigler and cellular biologist and Undergraduate Education Specialist Dr. Samantha Sheppard-Lahij. Ultimately she realized that neuroscience held the key to her future direction, and she joined the lab of biology Professor Mitchell Goldfarb, where she participated in research on
molecules that contribute to the ability of neurons to fire appropriately—research that may lead to successful treatments of genetic diseases like epilepsy. She will begin her graduate work this fall in neuroscience at the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

Yale Graduate School ESI-PREP Scholar, 2019–20

Demi Moore ’19

ESI–PREP (Emerging Scholars Initiative–Post-Baccalaureate Research Program) serves high-achieving college graduates from groups historically underrepresented in the humanities and social sciences. Its one-year, research-intensive curriculum prepares talented students for the rigors of top doctoral programs. Participants receive free tuition, a stipend for living expenses, health insurance, mentoring, and other benefits. Moore was one of nine scholars accepted this year from a nationwide pool of 275 applicants. She is the first Hunter student to win the Yale scholarship since its creation five years ago. She’ll conduct a yearlong research project on black political thought, working with a member of Yale’s political science faculty.

SEE APPENDIX 2 FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THIS YEAR’S NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIP WINNERS.

Awareness
Information Sessions, Alumni Engagement, Publicity, & Tabling

During AY 2018–19, we conducted a total of 29 Information Sessions (compared to 16 last year). Approximately half were arranged to host individual presentations by fellowship–granting foundations (Rhodes, Marshall, Soros, Knight–Hennessy, Schwarzman, Watson, and Pickering) in which a representative from each organization presented and answered questions. Most invitations went out to students on our listserv, which has more than 400 subscribers. Invitations to the remaining sessions went out to targeted groups, such as the Mellon Mays Fellows, the Thomas Hunter Honors Program students, the Mellon Arts Program Fellows, Pre–Health advisees, and the Macaulay Honors College students and Chinese Flagship students. In total, we reached about 300 students in these small–to–medium sized gatherings.

This year we doubled the number of group information sessions and began tabling outside the student café to attract students who are difficult to reach by other means.
Our introductory presentation to fellowship applications is designed for students who know nothing about the world of fellowships. In it we explore with students why they should think about applying for fellowships; we discuss the extrinsic and intrinsic rewards of applying. We break down the essential attributes of successful applicants and spell out what aspiring applicants need to accomplish in their applications to be successful. We also discuss what they will learn from the process by reflecting on its components and walk them through the kinds of fellowships available to them as they progress through Hunter.

Alumni Engagement

Hunter’s alumni have offered critical advice to recent candidate cohorts, either by individual video advising sessions, participating in information sessions, emailing with current aspirants, or meeting with prospects in person on their visits home during summer and winter intercessions.
Publicity
The College’s flatscreens continue to be one of the most important modes of publicity for us. While our social media traffic has increased thanks to the efforts of our staff, the number of winners displayed on the flatscreens and the attractiveness of their presentation has effectively increased the kinds of students aware of, and interested in, applying for scholarships.

This year, in addition to our annual appearance on “Hunter Network News,” the College’s internal student news telecast, Hunter’s major fellowship winners were featured on NY1 television: https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#clip/view/c55217e5-cf4c-456f-8b32-5eacf109cda3?token=0d099312-571a-4419-ba37-28ff956a4db7
The Efficacy of Student Advising:

- **610 Appointments**
- **117 Unique Candidate Applications**
- **36 Fellowships Awarded**

**Student Appointments**
Between July 1st and June 30th of the 2018–19 academic year, I had 610 student appointments, an increase over the previous cycle, during which I had nearly 600 student appointments.

**Application Essays**
Over the course of the year past, 117 students came into the Office to work on drafts of application essays. This represents a 31% increase in the number of candidates I worked with closely. On average, each of these students submitted 1.5 essay drafts for review.

**Fellowships**
In 2018–19 Hunter students won 34 prestigious fellowships; almost 50% of these students worked closely with me on their applications. The total number of scholarship winners, however, was down overall from the record number of winners last year (50).

**Tabling**
This Spring our college assistants began tabling outside the College café in the West Building twice a week to promote scholarships to students passing by on their way to lunch or class. This approach attracted dozens of students each week to sign up for individual appointments and to complete a "profile form" on our website, which places them on the OPS&S listserv. In the fall we will make more comprehensive use of this format to advertise events and build awareness among students we may not be able to reach by other means.
Advising

In information sessions, students learn about the extrinsic and intrinsic rewards of applying for fellowships. The extrinsic rewards of winning a fellowship are well known: students who win fellowships make more competitive applicants for graduate and professional school and for jobs. Winners are more likely to win other fellowships, and it’s more likely that their scholarly work will be accepted for publication. Winning fosters their participation in an international community, as most prestigious fellowships make possible study outside the United States.

The intrinsic rewards are less well-known and are quite unlike the more tangible reasons for applying, which students can only benefit from if they win. As noted in our Mission Statement above, the most important outcome of applying for a fellowship derives from simply having made the effort. Applying for a fellowship forces an applicant to think about who they are and what they care about; it helps them discover and articulate their purpose. It also makes them contemplate the consistencies among their various interests and to explain how they fit together. Students are forced to create a plausible narrative about their goals and tell a story about the course of their intellectual, social, and personal development. The international experience provided by most prestigious scholarships imparts an invaluable perspective on other cultures, peoples, and ways of thinking.

In individual meetings students learn which fellowships they are best suited for and at what point in their undergraduate careers they should be prepared to apply for various fellowships. Students learn that successful applicants demonstrate intellectual curiosity, create and maintain mentors, and have research, internship, job, or volunteer experiences. Students learn to seek out leadership experiences and get experience applying for fellowships, which gives them practice in successfully applying for future fellowships.

Developing Student Talent
The Ruth & Harold Newman Fortnight Research Dinners at Brookdale

“Fortnight” is a catered, semiformal dinner that Margaret Sabin and I host in Brookdale every two weeks each Spring for Seniors and Juniors interested in presenting their research-in-progress. Hunter students are invited (both to present and attend) through our email list and through each of the honors program heads. Typically, between 15 and 20 guests participate each time, and presenters may invite their advisors and parents. The idea for this gathering came from my experience at Yale which used this forum to create and sustain cross-disciplinary intellectual communities. Unlike the model from which this format draws, however, ours includes students of all class ranks (not exclusively seniors), so the forum provides a unique opportunity for students to practice presenting their intellectual and professional work and for them to “model” their performance for their younger peers in attendance.

This year we hosted 5 Fortnight Research Dinners, featuring 10 speakers, primarily seniors presenting their senior theses. The dinners are catered and attire is business casual. This year’s presentations included a talk by Gabriella Cook-Francis, this year’s Marshall Scholar, Anna Iatckova, NSF Graduate Fellow and semi-finalist for the Hertz Fellowship, Saif Zihiri, New York City Urban Fellow, and Elliott David, Schwarzman Scholar. The topics of the talks ranged from cancer research and suicidality, to political extremism in the United States.

Writing-Intensive Personal Essay Workshops

Twice each year, Margaret Sabin and I offer a week-long workshop (5 hours per day, for 4 consecutive days) to teach aspiring fellowship applicants how to write personal statements. The workshop is designed for students who have never written a personal statement before and examines everything from common grammatical errors to what fellowship-granting agencies are looking for in successful candidates and how to write the most effective personal statements. Of the 82 students who completed one of our 4-day intensive workshops between January 2017 and January 2019, 82% have won a significant fellowship, graduate/professional school admission, or job. Scholarships ranged from intensive language fellowships, such as a Critical Language Scholarship, to the most prestigious of national fellowships, like the Fulbright, and Rhodes. The one graduate school applicant who took the workshop got into the medical school of her choice, and the one applicant who sought a post-graduation job is currently working at Goldman Sachs as an analyst (and this year she was one of the three...
Hunter students who won a Schwarzman).

We have an ongoing mentoring relationship with the majority of our workshop students, with the result that they return, even after they have graduated, to consult with the Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships about post-graduate fellowship opportunities. While we routinely ask for participant feedback about the workshop through evaluations at the conclusion of each of the week-long programs, we also follow up with “graduates” beginning one, two, and three semesters after participation. Our philosophy is to support our students in thinking through their aspirations and to assess their success in the program based on their “starting line” when they took the workshop. Below are two excerpts of student evaluations of our week-long writing workshop:

“I honestly feel that it was a turning point for me at Hunter. I felt your instruction, the format of the workshop, the community fostered in the room, and the knowledge imparted about post-grad options was so helpful. The way you had us engage with personal writing helped me to look with more focus and clarity at my own interests and be able to articulate them better to myself and others, which is a tool I have circled back to often as my scholarship has evolved over my final semesters. I’ll also add that Hunter can be so decentralized it’s easy to feel discouraged/lost/without options, and your workshop made my options clear to me, which has been invaluably grounding.” . . .

“Creating an authentic and compelling prestigious scholarship application seemed daunting to me at first. But in the OPS writing workshop, Stephen and Margaret talked us through the entire application process. The workshop’s short reading assignments made me think about the tone and structure of my writing, and the short writing assignments later formed the basis for my application essays. This workshop provides an excellent foundation for anyone interested in improving their writing over a few relaxed and fun days. I cannot recommend this program highly enough!” . . .

Once again, in December 2018 we hosted a fellowship application writing workshop for any student applying for the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship (open to first- and second-year students). Each year, the Watson Fellowship chooses about 15 students from among 12 metro–area partner institutions to partake in a curated series of exclusive internships in 3 successive summers. Each participating college may nominate between 4 and 6 candidates each and, on average, each school wins 1–2 fellowships per year. This year, 3 of the 15 fellowships awarded by the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship went to Hunter nominees. For the second year in
a row we invited all students who started the Watson Fellowship application to an afternoon-long writing workshop and 15 attended. Regardless of our success in nominating winners each year, this event will remain an annual offering because it provides an opportunity to work with students in a substantive way from early on in their time at Hunter and is critical to building a “talent pipeline” for future winners of nationally competitive scholarships. By the end of AY 2018–19, 150 students had completed either the 4-day writing workshop (99 in all), or the 4-hour workshops for Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship applicants or candidates for Major Fall Fellowships (51).

Mentoring
One-on-One Tutoring

One-on-one work with students optimizes their understanding of what scholarship-granting agencies are looking for in successful applications. By the time students apply for nationally competitive fellowships, they have already distinguished themselves through their coursework, by research and writing in their primary fields of study, and through their extracurricular interests. Applicants tend to be strong writers before we begin working with them but may lack a broader view of the significance of their work or not know how to convey to a reader unfamiliar with their area of expertise what their work
means or why it matters. Often, students whose parents come from outside of the United States—parents who may have escaped their countries of origin under duress or because of severe discrimination—such students take for granted that their families need their support to survive and eventually flourish here. The modest circumstances of their upbringing and family ties often constricts their sense of what lies beyond their adopted city. They often don’t realize that their talents and education may enable them to live a much "larger" life—but this is something they learn through one-on-one advising.

One of the joys of working with students at Hunter is that many lack the self-awareness or perspective to appreciate what makes their own biographies such a special feature of their applications. In one-on-one sessions we explore the uniqueness of each student’s path to Hunter and take an inventory of all the experiences they’ve had that combine to prepare them to make compelling applications for awards. Ideally, the most promising students come to my attention early on in their time at Hunter, so that I can help them identify and apply for the scholarships most suited to their skill level and ambition.

Interview Preparation

Many of the most desirable fellowships entail one or even two interviews. The Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Schwarzman, Knight-Hennessy, Luce, and Soros Foundations all invite finalists to interviews that last one or two days at which those candidates judged best-qualified to be considered for funding are asked to meet with a committee. It is a rare student at a public institution who has had any kind of experience that would prepare them for the kinds of questions they will encounter in these meetings. Few have been put under this kind of pressure, intellectually or socially.

However, it is possible to make up a lot of ground by giving students practice during the weeks between first learning about a final-round interview and the day of reckoning. Fortunately, each time we have had applicants for prestigious awards, we have had candidates selected for final-round interviews. This...
year, in addition to arranging mock interviews with our finalists for the Marshall and Schwarzman Scholarships, we also conducted a workshop on interviewing skills for all students who had completed an application for the UK and Schwarzman Scholarships.

Hunter’s faculty and administrative staff have pitched-in enthusiastically to provide experiences that mimic the final-round interviews for the Marshall, Rhodes, Schwarzman, Truman, and Luce Scholarship competitions. Last year, Thamara Jean benefitted from the network of former Rhodes Scholars gathered by Lev Sviridov, Director of the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter, to put her through her paces before her interview weekend. This year a combination of Hunter faculty and Rhodes and Marshall alumna gathered for the same purpose to help prepare Marshall winner Gabriella Cook-Francis, and other Hunter faculty helped to prepare our three successful Schwarzman candidates.

**Phi Beta Kappa**

As the centennial anniversary of Hunter’s Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa approaches, the Provost asked us to work with a newly appointed faculty co-chair and President of "Nu," Scott Gentile, to reinvigorate the presence on our campus of the nation’s oldest and most revered undergraduate honors society. Authorization for the revival of Phi Beta Kappa at Hunter was approved late in Spring semester and in time to induct the 2018-19 cohort just before Commencement.

This year 151 students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa (including Juniors), which almost doubled the average number inducted over the last several years. This was made possible by the Provost’s offer to subsidize students’ membership for the first year. The revitalization of Phi Beta Kappa has already paid dividends as a source of recruitment for students to apply for fellowships as we experienced a surge (compared to our Spring recruitment efforts) in interest in the Fulbright Scholarship program at Hunter.
On the Horizon: Our Vision for the Coming Academic Year

Hunter undergraduates once consistently won nationally competitive science scholarships. It is our intention to restore that tradition within the next few years by increasing engagement with both science graduate and undergraduate students. We also expect to increase the number of students applying for and winning language-study scholarships and generally to expand contact with students not involved with any honors programs.

Goals for 2019–20:
1. Improve outreach and engagement with science students

   We will reach these students by increasing contacts with prominent science faculty known to be good mentors and by collaborating with Prof. Michael Steiper on targeting relevant groups of students by discipline and performance in science courses.

2. Increase outreach and number of students applying to language-study scholarships

   This year we will collaborate intensively with Giovanna Cucciniello, Director of Education Abroad, to systematically visit language instruction classes early in the Fall semester to talk about study abroad and fellowship opportunities and deadlines. This should expand the pool of applicants for all such opportunities as well as the number of winners.

3. Expand engagement with students not participating in any honors program

   In 2017–18, 29% of Hunter student winners of nationally competitive scholarships were not in any honors program. During the past year, 38% of student winners were not in any honors program, a 30% increase over the previous year. Our goal is to enlarge the share of "non-honors" students winning scholarships to 50% over the next few years, as we intensify recruitment during the coming semesters.

4. Increase number of writing workshops and number of students participating

   This is an aspiration without resources at the moment. In the past year we offered an additional afternoon-long workshop exclusively for rising seniors and graduates who were planning to apply in the Major Fall Fellowships cycle. It may be possible to add some more of these shorter, four-hour workshops this year because they entail less of a time commitment from students. According to feedback on our workshops, students would like more opportunities to share written work and criticisms with their peers, so we may devote some workshops to this purpose.

5. Reinvigorate the Phi Beta Kappa honor society

   After an encouraging start in 2018–19, in this, the year of the 100th anniversary of the Nu Chapter, we intend to hold both mid-year and Spring induction ceremonies, refine our selection process, and engage more faculty to assist in the selection process.
Thank Yous

Thanks, first, to the generosity of long-time Hunter supporters, Ruth Newman (’54) and Harold Newman, who created an endowment in 2016 to fund the Directorship of this Office. Their ongoing commitment to student development has been critical to Hunter’s recent success in winning nationally competitive scholarships.

We would also like to thank the following “Friends of OSP&F,” chief among them, President Jennifer J. Raab, whose continuing support and advice has ensured the ongoing success of our students. Vice-President for Campus Affairs and Dean of Students Eija Ayraveinen has been especially helpful in making possible our programming at Brookdale, where some of our most important developmental work with students occurs. During the past year it was a particular pleasure to work under the inspired direction of William Tramontano, who is now Acting President of Queens College. Provost Lon Kaufman was very helpful in bringing about the resurgence of the Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Hunter, and Scott Gentile of the Math Department brought energy and purpose to the selection and induction of this year’s class of Phi Beta Kappa members. As ever, Lev Svirdov, Director of the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter has been an invaluable collaborator and resource to OPS&F and our students.

Below is a list of the many individuals who have contributed in various ways to the success of our students this past year, by referring students to the Office, providing critical administrative support, writing letters of recommendation, participating in mock interviews or selection committees, or simply by providing the benefit of their knowledge and experience. My thanks to each and every one of them.

Friends of OPS&F

William Tramontano with Dr. Ruth Westheimer

A
Helen Adams-Keane
Sharmeen Ahmed
Linda Alcoff
Judith Alpert
Ronnie Ancona
Vasilii Arkanov

B
Andrea Baden
Laura Baecher
Jill Baggonetti
Lilliam Barrios-Paoli
Linda Beller
Rick Belski
Manu Bhagavan
Kelvin Black
Helber Bolanos
Derrick Brazil
Zach Bubolo
Robert J. Buckley
Brian Buckwald
Elizabeth Butterworth
Matthew Caballero
Devin Callahan
Erica Cao
Anabela Carrera
Der-lin Chao
Wenshing Chou
Yvonne Chow
Robert Cowan
Giovanna Cucciniello
Kelle Cruz
Christine Curella
Nelson R. Duque
Alexander Ellison
Sarah Fansad
Judith Friedlander
Scott Gentile
Charlotte Glasser
Cris Gleicher
OSP&F STAFF

Genevieve Bettendorf (Scholarships Coordinator) is a 2016 graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, and a third-year PhD student in English at the CUNY Graduate Center, where she studies contemporary American fiction and through which she teaches English Composition I and II at Lehman College. In addition to bringing her five years of writing instruction—first as a TA at Rhodes and now as a lead composition instructor—to OPS’s work with Hunter students on their Fulbright applications, Genevieve deploys her passion for pivot tables to optimize office operations. In her spare time, Genevieve enjoys finding NYC’s best burrata (reigning champion: Novitá in Gramercy), petting big dogs, and, when she can get out of the city, hiking in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park near her family home in Ohio.
Liz Serviss (College Assistant) is a junior Athena scholar majoring in Creative Writing. Her favorite part of working at OPS is meeting and having individual conversations with students who attend info sessions and other events hosted by the office.

Gabriella Vetrano (College Assistant) is a Macaulay Honors student at Hunter College. She is a junior pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Media Studies with a concentration in Journalism. Gabriella brings with her experience as a social media coordinator and helps conduct outreach by managing the office’s website and social media accounts. In her free time, Gabriella loves exploring the city with her friends and watching film classics.

Appendix 1

Fellowship Winners, 2018–19

During 2018–19 we recorded some benchmark achievements but experienced a decline in the overall number of scholarship winners from totals over the past two years. This was due directly to a decline in the numbers of students applying for study abroad scholarships as well as science scholarships. We’re confident that with renewed focus on these two areas we can boost the total number of scholarship winners to levels attained in 2016–17 and 2017–18.
Critical Language Scholarship
Mehriniso Khaydarova
Sally Li
Sabrina Rich
**Emerson National Hunger Fellowship, Congressional Hunger Center**
Mariama Badjie
**Foreign Language Area Scholarships (FLAS)**
Dakota Brandon
Waleed Syed Faizi
**Fulbright (Research or ETA)**
Darsen Hover
Anastasiya Matveyenkou
Bressni Neary
Kevin Tang
**Gilman International**
Carly Burton
Therese Fernandez
Sonchellove Hilaire
Meri Khurshudyian
Eunice Melendez
Katherine Moger
Xin Xin Xing
**Humanity in Action**
Ashton Santo
**Luce Scholarship**
Kiryl Puchyk

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**Marshall Scholarship**
Gabriella Cook-Francis

**National Science Foundation — GRF**
Alyssa Basmajan
Anna Iatckova

**NYC Urban Fellows Program**
Madelyn Adams
Saif Zihiri

**New York State Senate Fellows Program**
Jane Min

**Jonas E. Salk Awards**
Rochel Hecht
Alec Levine
Marie Mazzeo
Hamza Sadhra

**Schwarzman Scholarship**
Elliot David
Joy Nuga
Christopher Sperrazza

**Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship**
Nibras Ahmed
Devashish Basnet
Anna Shvetsova

**Yale ESI-PREP**
Demi Moore
Appendix 2
Self-Study Report

This year the College engaged in a "self-study" to examine every aspect of the student experience at Hunter as a way of determining its effectiveness in delivering a high-value/low cost college education. Hunter’s review by The Middle States Commission was of course highly positive, but the work of the Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships was featured as one of the highlights of the College’s academic support for its students.

ops+f
The Ruth & Harold Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships