

Drexel Fellowships Office

Vision. Ambition. Achievement. Advice. Support.

Annual Report 2010-11

Reaching for the Top: The Most Prestigious Fellowships

Two students came separately into my office last week to ask about applying for a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University. No, this isn't the beginning of a joke. It's clear evidence that our students are becoming more aware of fellowships and are excited about jumping into the ring, even for the most prestigious and competitive opportunities.

This is good news for our students, our faculty, and our University. While many of us know that we have some amazing students here, they haven't always gotten the recognition and support they deserve. The Drexel Fellowships Office encourages and supports students to apply for the nation's most competitive scholarships.

Summer Workshops for Fellowships Applicants

The Drexel Fellowships Office is offering a series of workshops this summer for students who will be applying for competitive fellowships in 2011.

The series features workshops such as Writing a Personal Statement, Writing a Fulbright Research Proposal, and Finding an International Affiliation. As part of the

And we're starting to see some success stories. In 2009, **Alyssa Wilson** (Physics '09) received the **Gates Cambridge Scholarship**, which supported her astrophysics research at Cambridge. In 2010, **Uk Jung** (Architecture '09) was a finalist for the elite **Marshall Scholarship**.

series, we will also present a panel of student award recipients discussing their application experiences and a panel of faculty who have sat on selection panels for prestigious national awards such as NSF, NIH, and Boren.

The workshops can be taken individually or as a sequence. They are designed to help students develop the

And this year, **Phillip Tomezsko** (Biomed '11) was a finalist for the prestigious **Truman Scholarship** for public service. A Drexel Community Scholar in the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, Phil would like to pursue graduate school in global epidemiology to sup-

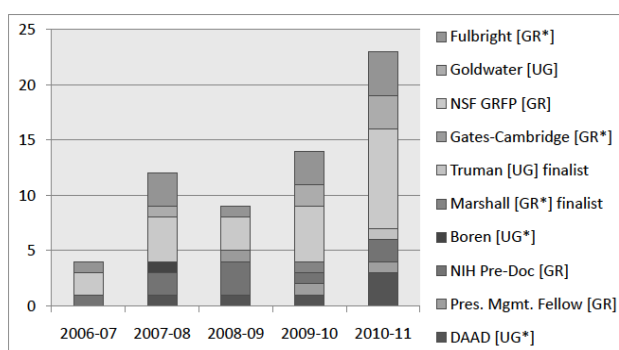
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insight and skill to prepare as strong and successful an application as possible.

Interested students should visit our website for more information: www.drexel.edu/fellowships.

Warm thanks to Graduate Studies, Hagerty Library, the Writing Center and the Learning Center for lending their skills to these events.

Drexel Recipients of Prestigious Student Fellowships



* International Award

Points of Note

- IN 2010-11, MORE DREXEL STUDENTS RECEIVED FULBRIGHT, GOLDWATER, AND NSF GRFP SCHOLARSHIPS THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR SCHOOL'S HISTORY.
- SOME STUDENTS ARE USING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS TO SHARPEN THEIR CAREER VISION, HONE THEIR WRITING SKILLS, AND PREPARE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL OR JOB APPLICATIONS.
- THE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE CAN WORK WITH DEPARTMENTS, COLLEGES, AND OFFICES ACROSS THE CAMPUS TO PROMOTE RELEVANT OPPORTUNITIES.

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Drexel Fulbrighters on the Rise



Drexel students are seeking out — and winning — Fulbright Scholarships with increasing regularity. Our student Fulbrighters come from all colleges and majors. What they have in common is an enthusiasm for cultural exchange and a strong reason to be in their host country.

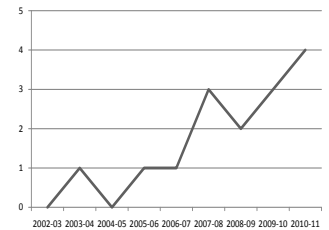
For 2011-12, we are thrilled to have four student Fulbrights, more than ever before in Drexel's history. **Caitlin Costello** (IAS '10) will be studying rice farming in Senegal. **Janani Singaravelu** (MMS, '11) will research HIV-TB co-infection in India;

Karen Sullam (Environmental Science PhD, '13) will research the ecology of aquatic microbes in Switzerland, and **Dan Tedesco** (IAS '11) will study a youth leadership program in China.

In the 2010-11 academic year, three Drexel students have been abroad on Fulbrights: **Karen Miller** (CAEE BS, STS MS '10) has been working to help preserve historic wooden houses in Istanbul. **Kara Spiller** (Biomed PhD '10) has been developing cartilage replacement tissue at a lab in Portugal. **Kent Troutman**

(Finance BA '10) has been investigating the effects of micro-interest rates on rural poverty in China.

Drexel Fulbright Recipients 2002-2011



A program of the US State Department, Fulbright supports students for one year of study, research, or teaching.

Goldwaters, Goldwaters Everywhere



Drexel students continue to be successful with the Goldwater Scholarship, an award for the nation's most promising undergraduate students in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Goldwater Scholars tend to have terrific undergraduate research experience, a focus that fits well with Drexel, especially our STAR program

for early-career undergraduate research opportunities and Co-op.

Each year, a University can nominate a maximum of four students to the Goldwater Foundation. Of these four, three of our 2011 nominees received the award. (In 2010, two of our four nominees received the award.)

Our 2011 Goldwater Scholars are:

Magdalena Bielinski (ECE BS/PhD '15) Wireless signal applications for healthcare settings.

Kevin Knehr (MEM BS '12) Renewable energy storage.

Sajjan Singh Mehta (Physics/Math BS '12). Particle cosmology and mathematical physics.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program



An extraordinary nine Drexel students and alumni have received the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship for 2011. An additional five students received Honorable Mentions.

This terrific award, known as the GRFP, supports early graduate students with tuition

plus \$30,000 stipend for up to three years.

Our 2011 GRFP recipients:

Joseph Angelo (Physics)

Magdalena Bielinski (ECE)

Lily Brown (Psychology) (not pictured)

Jared Langevin (Archit Eng)

Rachel Magee (Information Studies)

Prineha Narang (Materials Eng)

Elizabeth Plowman (ECE)

Adria Wilson (Chemistry)

Alyssa Wilson (Physics)

Fellowships Office 2010-11

Reaching for the Very Top: Gates, Marshall, Truman

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port a more holistic approach to AIDS treatment in the developing world.

But interest and enthusiasm aren't enough. These most-competitive programs are looking for authentic students who can demonstrate substantive leadership and the potential to make a real impact on the world.

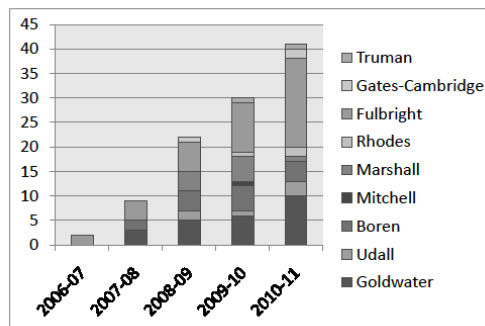
I had to tell the two students who came into my office that they probably are not going to

be competitive for Rhodes. Instead, I steered them to some strong alternatives.

Nonetheless, one of the students said she had heard that fellowships applications are rigorous and wondered if she could apply anyway as a way to strengthen her career focus and her ability to articulate a strong vision for her future.

The answer is yes, she should. And the Fellowships Office can help her do just that.

Drexel Applicants for Elite National Awards
2006-11



Botta Hanging Around with Nobel Laureates

Greg Botta, an MD/PhD student, has received the Lindau Award to attend the annual meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany this summer.

Botta has an interesting interdisciplinary background, holding undergraduate degrees in both Biomedical Engineering and Information Systems. His current work explores the computer modeling of cancer signaling pathways in human pancreatic cells. He is well on his way to his desired

interdisciplinary career in academic medicine.

In his time at Drexel, Greg has also received the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award and the University's Bondi Fellowship.

Greg joins Erica Caden (Physics PhD '11) and Jessica Schiffman (MEM PhD '09), as Drexel recipients of this prestigious award. Schiffman and Caden received the Lindau in 2008.



JKCF Graduate Arts Award Recipient

Rachel Semigran (English '10) was one of just ten students nationally to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award for 2011. This generous award supports students of exceptional promise and financial need to attend graduate school in the creative or performing arts. Rachel will pursue a Masters in Community-Based Theater from the Central School of Drama at the University of London.

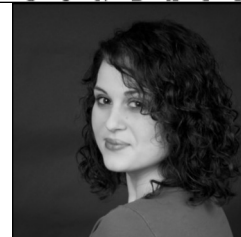
In addition to being an active part of several performing and improv groups while at Drexel, Rachel was a high-achieving English major who worked with the Drexel

Publishing Group, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Philly Fringe Festival.

Since graduating, Rachel has been working in Philadelphia and volunteering with an afterschool drama program in a city public HS. This award will enable her to pursue a professional career in drama-for-the-greater-good.

The Graduate Arts Award is new from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which has long supported top students with financial need at critical points in their education.

JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION



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Congratulations To... Drexel Recipients of Prestigious Awards 2010-11

The Drexel Fellowships Office celebrates the accomplishments of *all* Drexel students who apply for prestigious fellowships, whether we work with them or not. This list shows all the students we know of to date who have received nationally-competitive awards in the 2010-11 academic year, tenable for 2011-12. Note that in cases where a program notifies students in the summer, indicated with a *, we've included last year's recipients. If we've overlooked someone on this list, please let us know.

Congratulations to.....

Alexander Alspach	Mechanical Engineering PhD	Engineering	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
Joseph Angelo	Physics BS alumnus	Arts and Sciences/ PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Rosemary Bastian	Biomedical Engineering PhD	BIOMED	Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Program
Alyssa Batula	Electrical Engineering BS/PhD	Engineering	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
Robert Belardi	Architectural Engineering BS	Engineering	Erasmus Mundus Class A Scholarship. Advanced MS in Structural Analysis of Monuments and Historical Construction (Portugal and Italy)
Magda Bielinski	Electrical Engineering BS/PhD	Engineering/PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Goldwater Scholarship (declined); Vanguard Women in IT (declined)
Greg Botta	Medicine/Biomedical Science MD/PhD	DUCOM	Lindau Award for Annual Meeting of Nobel Laureates (Germany)
Lily Brown	Psychology BS Alumna	Arts and Sciences/ PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Christine Chung	Medicine MD	DUCOM	Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship
Caitlin Costello	International Area Studies BS	Arts and Sciences	Fulbright Scholarship to Senegal
Brian Dolhansky	Computer Engineering BS/MS	Engineering/PHC	DAAD RISE (German Academic Exchange Service Research Intern- ships in Science and Engineering)
Amalie Donius	Materials Sci Engineering PhD	Engineering	National Science Foundation East Asia Pacific Summer Internship (Japan)
Darryl Fields	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	HBCU-STEM Fellowship*
Paul Freeman	Mechanical Engineering	Engineering	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
Jennifer Gaffney	Information Technology BSIT	iSchool	Vanguard Women in IT Scholarship
Haider Hasan	Mechanical Engineering BS/ MS	Engineering	National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)
Tetyana Ivanishena	International Area Studies BS	Arts and Sciences/ PHC	Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Undergraduate Fellowship (Woodrow Wilson Foundation)
Prativa Kharel	Electrical Engineering BS/MS	Engineering	DAAD RISE (German Academic Exchange Service Research Intern- ships in Science and Engineering) Germany
Sarah Kim	Medicine MD	DUCOM	Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Fellowship; American Medical Association Foundation Seed Grant
Kevin Knehr	Mechanical Engineering BS	Engineering/PHC	Goldwater Scholar
Jared Langevin	Architectural Engineering PhD	Engineering	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Oren Leaffer	Materials Sci Engineering PhD	Engineering	National Science Foundation East Asia Pacific Summer Internship (Australia)

Fellowships Office 2010-11

Victoria Lewis	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	HBCU-STEM Fellowship*
Rachel Magee	Information Studies PhD	iSchool	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Michelle McCloskey	Public Policy MS	Arts and Sciences	Critical Language Scholarship (Turkey)
Sajjan Singh Mehta	Physics/Math BS/MS	Arts and Sciences /PHC	Goldwater Scholar
Xu Meng	Biomedical Engineering PhD	BIOMED	IEEE Microwave Theory and Technique Society (MTT-S) Graduate Fellowship for Medical Applications
Farah Moldover	Materials Sci Engineering BS	Engineering	Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) (Germany)
Prineha Narang	Materials Sci Engineering BS/PhD	Engineering/PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Katherine Orr	Library and Information Sciences MS	iSchool	Presidential Management Fellowships
Daniel Parry	Mathematics PhD	Arts and Sciences	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
Elizabeth Plowman	Electrical Engineering BS/PhD	Engineering/PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Jessica Posey	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	HBCU-STEM Fellowship*
Pavithra Ramakirshnan	Biomedical Engineering MS	BIOMED	National Science Foundation East Asia Pacific Summer Internship (China)
Vladimir Ratushny	Molecular and Cell Biology MD/PhD	DUCOM	NIH Pre-Doctoral Training Grant
Christina Roberts	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	HBCU-STEM Fellowship*
Andi Rosso	Epidemiology PhD	Public Health	ASPH/CDC Environmental Health Scholarship
Rachel Semigran	English BA	Arts and Sciences	Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award
Janani Singaravelu	Medical Sciences MS	DUCOM	Fulbright Scholarship to India
Steven Spurgeon	Materials Sci Engineering PhD	Engineering	National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)
Collin Stabler	Biomedical Engineering PhD	BIOMED	NASA Graduate Student Researcher Program (GSRP)
Karen Sullam	Environmental Science PhD	Arts and Sciences	Fulbright Scholar to Switzerland
Amber Taylor	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	HBCU-STEM Fellowship*
Daniel Tedesco	International Area Studies BS	Arts and Sciences/PHC	Fulbright Scholar to China
Rhea Thompson	Biology BS	Arts and Sciences	Amgen Scholar
Cymara Tolbert	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	HBCU-STEM Fellowship*
Phillip Tomezsko	Biomedical Engineering BS	BIOMED/PHC	Truman Scholar Finalist
Eric Wargo	Mechanical Engineering PhD	Engineering	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
Mickey Whitzer	Mechanical Engineering BS	Engineering/PHC	DAAD RISE (German Academic Exchange Service Research Internships in Science and Engineering) Germany
Adria Wilson	Chemistry BS alumna	Arts and Sciences/PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Alyssa Wilson	Physics BS alumna	Arts and Sciences/PHC	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Faisal Yayah	Epidemiology MPH	Public Health	National Minority Stem Fellowship*

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Campus Partnerships



The work of the Fellowships Office would not be possible without the terrific partners that we are fortunate to have across the entire University.

First and foremost, we are grateful to the many **faculty and staff** who take the time to be strong mentors and role models for students. This is the extraordinary and largely unheralded link that transforms, over time, an interesting student with some promise into one who is ready to apply for elite fellowships — one with a clear and interesting vision for where they want to go, relevant and substantive experience, and a good idea of what it takes to get to the next step.

We are also thankful to have such strong partners in many **key offices** around the University. You have contributed your skills, knowledge, and resources to outreach efforts, participated in interviews, brainstormed with us, and otherwise lent your goodwill to this campus-wide initiative. We thank you for your collaborative spirit and for your enthusiasm for student success.

- Acad Advising, Retention, Diversity
- Drexel Learning Center
- Faculty Development and Equity
- Financial Aid
- Graduate Studies
- Hagerty Library
- Honor's Program
- Information Resources & Technology
- Institutional Advancement (Foundation Relations)
- International Programs
- International Students and Scholars
- Lindy Center for Civic Engagement
- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
- Online Learning Team
- President's Office
- Provost's Office
- STAR Program
- Steinbright Career Development Center
- Student Engagement (Student Life)
- Study Abroad
- Registrar
- ROTC
- The Triangle
- Undergraduate Research
- University Communications
- University/Community Partnerships
- Writing Center

Finally, we are fortunate to now have at least one **Fellowships Liaison** in each school at Drexel. Our liaisons help us to identify the right students and get our message out to them at the right time. In some cases, they are also a student's go-to resource in their college for administrative and substantive questions regarding fellowships. We are grateful for their advocacy efforts and enthusiasm.

Arts and Sciences (UG):	Sandy Friedlander	Goodwin:	Lamont Wilson
Arts and Sciences (GR):	James Herbert	iSchool:	Kristen Samec
BIOMED (UG):	Laurie Lenz	Law:	Rashida West
BIOMED (GR):	Natalia Broz	Medicine:	Marie Hartman
Business (UG):	Ian Sladen	Nursing/HP:	Steven Gambescia
Business (GR):	Ron Nordone	Public Health:	Warren Hilton
Engineering (UG):	Erin Huver	Westphal:	Sandra Stewart
Engineering (GR):	Holly Burnside	Westphal:	David Miller

Fellowships Program Coordinator Extraordinaire



Cindy Schaarschmidt

Though many of you have already had an opportunity to work with her, I am delighted to formally welcome Cindy Schaarschmidt to the Fellowships Office. Cindy started in August 2010 and has made quite an impact.

A native of Germany, Cindy holds an MA in Media Com-

munications and American Studies from the University of Leipzig, Germany.

She was a 2004-05 Fulbright grantee from Germany to the US and has studied and worked abroad in the US, Guatemala, the UK, Russia, and Spain.

Cindy is focusing her efforts

on supporting students for international awards, such as the Critical Language Scholarship won by **Michelle McCloskey** (Public Policy MS, '12) for intensive Turkish language study.

You can contact Cindy at fellowships@drexel.edu.

Fellowships Office 2010-11

Fellowships Office Core Awards

The Fellowships Office is the official campus contact for the following awards.

Fellowships marked with a ** require University nomination or endorsement through our office.

Fellowships marked with a ++ require interview through our office.



Boren Scholarship ++	National Security Education Program	Undergraduate study and language study overseas (non-Western Europe)
Carnegie Junior Fellows**	Carnegie Foundation	Work with Carnegie Senior Fellow
Fulbright Scholarship ++	US State Department	Study, research, or teaching overseas
Goldwater Scholarship**	Goldwater Foundation	Outstanding undergraduate STEM students committed to research careers
Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award**	Jack Kent Cooke Foundation	Graduate study in creative arts
Marshall Scholarship**	Marshall Foundation	Graduate study in the UK
Mitchell Scholarship**	US-Ireland Alliance	Graduate study in Ireland
Rhodes Scholarship**	Rhodes Trust	Graduate study at Oxford University
Truman Scholarship**	Truman Foundation	Juniors committed to public service leadership
Udall Scholarship**	Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation	Undergraduates committed to environmental leadership

We also encourage students to apply for, and regularly support students in their applications to, other nationally competitive awards, including:

Boren Fellowship	National Security Education Program	Graduate research, study, language study overseas (non-Western Europe)
Critical Language Scholarship	US State Department	Critical language study overseas
DAAD RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering)	German Academic Exchange Service	Research internships in Germany
Gates Cambridge Scholarship	Gates Cambridge Trust	Graduate study at Cambridge University
Hertz Foundation Fellowship	Hertz Foundation	Support for graduate school in physical sciences
Institute for International Public Policy	United Negro College Fund Special Programs	Support for students from underrepresented groups interested in international affairs.
National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)	US Department of Defense	Tuition + stipend for graduate STEM students whose work is in area of national need
National Institutes of Health awards	National Institutes of Health	Various training programs and support
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program (NSF GRFP)	National Science Foundation	Tuition + stipend for graduate study in science and social science
Science, Mathematics & Research for Transformation (SMART)	US Department of Defense	Support for STEM students, either undergrad or grad. Requires service
UNCF-Merck Science Research Awards	United Negro College Fund/Merck Science Initiative	Support for African-Americans in Life Sciences
Whitaker Fellowships	Whitaker Foundation	Biomedical study, research, or work overseas



Started by the Pennoni Honors College in 2007, the Drexel Fellowships Office supports Drexel students and alumni across the University in their applications for competitive national and international fellowships. We raise campus-wide awareness of opportunities and directly help students create strong applications through intensive individual advising and support.

For more information about the Drexel Fellowships Office, or about any of the Fellowships programs that we work with, find us at <http://www.drexel.edu/fellowships>. You can also contact us at fellowships@drexel.edu.

“APPLYING TO FELLOWSHIPS IS ALWAYS REWARDING BECAUSE IT PROMOTES SELF-REFLECTION AND THOUGHT ABOUT WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CAREER AND LIFE TO GO.”
- 2010 APPLICANT

From the Director: Defining the Fellowships Office

“MY WRITING HAS IMPROVED, AS WELL AS MY CONFIDENCE IN APPLYING TO PROGRAMS AND AWARDS IN THE FUTURE.”

-2010 APPLICANT

“THEY GAVE SO MUCH SUPPORT, FROM MY FIRST INQUIRY TO MANY MANY REVISIONS. THEIR HELP WAS WELL BEYOND ANYTHING I HAD EXPECTED.”

-2010 APPLICANT

As a relatively new and very small initiative in a large University, the Fellowships Office has taken time this year to evaluate and reflect on our work. We surveyed the students we’ve worked with to understand how they perceive our supports and met with key administrators in each of Drexel’s colleges and schools to be sure our efforts align with their strategic priorities.

We learned that overwhelmingly students value and appreciate our work, though many wished they had known about us earlier in their tenure at Drexel. More specifically:

- * 97% of respondents told us that we met or exceeded their expectations.

- * 85% of respondents had their essay drafts reviewed by us and 2/3 had drafts reviewed multiple times. 64% have used our website to identify specific awards to apply for.

The quotes that appear on this

page are from that survey.

From administrators, we learned which kinds of opportunities would work best for their programs and students and how we might best complement their capacities.

As a result of this feedback, we have tweaked our mission (above) to more clearly reflect the dual focus of our work: university-wide outreach and awareness as well as intensive individual advising and support.

For this coming academic year, we will focus on a handful of awards with strategic importance and/or broad appeal, particularly Fulbright, Goldwater, and NSF GRFP. We will also continue to work hard with ambitious and talented students who wish to pursue any of the highly competitive “core” awards we work with (pg 7).

We are also doing more outreach around these awards this year, from the summer

workshop series (pg 1) to regular info sessions to presentations to departments and student groups.

Above all, we have been reminded through this feedback of the ways in which applying for fellowships, regardless of outcome, helps **develop the core academic, intellectual, and personal skills that we value** at Drexel: self-directed and experiential learning, student research, and civic engagement. In the survey, students themselves affirmed the value of the application process, noting that they’d developed their writing and communication skills, time management and organization, and long-term life-planning. Perhaps most importantly, they developed a more focused vision for their futures.

We welcome your feedback and ideas. Contact me directly at: rbuchalter@drexel.edu.

Rona Buchalter, PhD
Director
Drexel Fellowships Office