



CAMBRIDGE CALLING

Meet the recipient of Drexel's second-ever Gates Cambridge scholarship

Nick Barber, geoscience '18, has been selected from among 35 of the most academically outstanding and socially committed students in the nation for a 2018 Gates Cambridge Scholarship. He is the second student in Drexel history to receive this award.

The postgraduate program at Cambridge University, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

Nick was recognized for his talent and commitment to improving the world through his forecast of volcanic eruptions and undergraduate research mentorship.

Nick, who spent his childhood lifting up every rock, will head to the U.K. this fall to seek to explain the systematic behavior of trace metals in active volcanic systems.

"I want to wake up tomorrow to find it's October and I have already begun my PhD at Cambridge," Nick says. "The anticipation building to work on a novel, transformative project with world-class researchers and equipment is almost too much for me to bear!"

He credits his research path to Jaya Mohan and Emily Kashka in the Office of Undergraduate Research, as well as mentors like Dr. Løye Vanderkluyesen of Drexel, Dr. Anne Jay of The Open University, and Dr. William Chadwick of NOAA/Oregon State University. The critical and keen insights of Dr. Meredith Wooten of the Center for Scholar Development not only helped shape his application but the trajectory of his career.

"Nick's approach to research and outreach embodies how we think of ourselves as a University: innovative, experiential, interdisciplinary, engaged," says Wooten. "Nick has creatively used his co-op opportunities to pursue his interests in learning more about geology, exploring (and excelling) in a range of areas and institutional settings. His achievements are a powerful testimony to his independence, energy, and passion for his work."

Photo: Nick Barber celebrates his Gates-Cambridge scholarship with Pennoni Honors College staff (from left to right: Dr. Meredith Wooten, director of the Center for Scholar Development; Dean Paula Marantz Cohen; Nick Barber; Emily Kashka, program manager for Office of Undergraduate Research (Skyping in Jaya Mohan, associate director of Office of Undergraduate Research); Kelly Weissberger, associate director for the Center for Scholar Development; and Martha Meiers, program coordinator for the Center for Scholar Development.



WEEK OF UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE

Week of Undergraduate Excellence : May 14-18, 2018

Listen, watch, and appreciate Drexel's undergraduate students as they hone their public speaking, demonstration, and research skills at the second annual Week of Undergraduate Excellence (WUE). Sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research, WUE brings together undergrads, faculty, the greater Drexel community, and visitors to take part in a weeklong exhibition of accomplishments, including poster sessions, oral presentations, and performances.