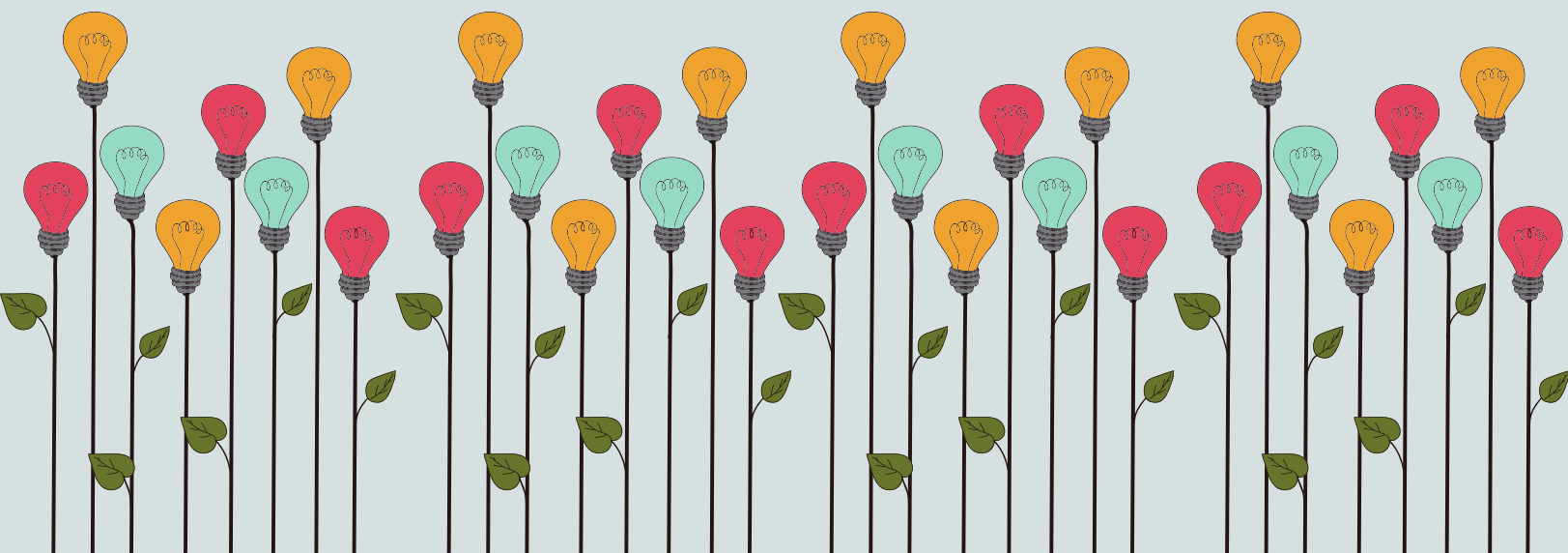


# 2021-22

# Annual Report

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs  
Pennoni Honors College



# MESSAGE FROM THE UREP DIRECTOR



**Jaya Mohan, MA**  
Director, UREP

Our second year together as an office saw some changes in Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs (UREP), as well as the opportunity to build on our successes from the previous year. We said goodbye to some valuable staff members and welcomed some important new faces onto our team (p.2). Ultimately, we found ourselves **coming together** – back to face-to-face engagement with each other and with our students and further refining an integrated pipeline of experiences with which students can engage, showcased by the achievements of our fantastic UREP Frequent Flyers (p.18).

We were thrilled to return to our on-campus home of Bentley Hall in Fall 2021, allowing us more opportunities to meet with students in person and host events in a variety of formats, including virtual, hybrid, and fully face-to-face. We continued to work towards our mission to expand access to experiential learning opportunities by working with a record number of applicants for the Gilman Scholarship (p.11), by establishing additional avenues to support underrepresented students in applying for and participating in the STAR Scholars Program (p.8), and by continuing to develop DEI programming, including our Candid Conversations series (p.14) and our collaboration with other departments in the Pennoni Honors College to host the second annual Pennoni Womxn's Week (p.14).

We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the STAR Scholars Program (p.6) and look forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Pennoni Honors College throughout the 2022-23 academic year. These anniversaries, like our annual report, invite us to not only celebrate the impact of our programs, our department, and our college but to reflect on the progress we have made and that we can continue to make in supporting some of Drexel's most motivated and engaged undergraduate students.



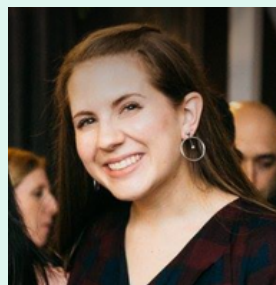
# UREP STAFF



**Leah Gates, MA**  
Associate Director



**Kelly Weissberger, MA**  
Associate Director



**Emily Kashka-Ginsburg, MA**  
Associate Director



**Cara Fantini, MA**  
Assistant Director



**Roxane Lovell, MA**  
Program Manager



**Rachel James**  
Program Coordinator



**Ian Zimmermann**  
Graduate Assistant

In Fall 2021, we said goodbye to Martha Meiers, Program Manager for UREP. Martha was an essential member of our team, managing everything from our social media to the Aspire Scholars Program. Martha also created our first Annual Report as a merged department in 2020-21. We miss her dearly but know she is off to do great things!

In Fall 2021, we welcomed Ian Zimmerman as our part-time graduate assistant. Ian is a PhD candidate in Communication, Culture and Media and works with students on a wide portfolio of fellowships, including Gilman, Freeman-ASIA, CLS, Fulbright, and more. We are grateful for Ian's support helping our students craft competitive applications for external fellowships.

In Winter 2022, we welcomed Rachel James as the Program Coordinator for Outreach in UREP. Rachel comes to us with experience working for Virginia Tech's University Libraries, where she assisted students and staff in using library resources. In UREP, she is the brains behind our external communications, managing our social media, newsletters, outreach initiatives, and creating the annual report you are reading now! We are so lucky to have her on the team.



# MISSION

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs is a unit in the Pennoni Honors College that engages students across the university in the process of intellectual and self-discovery through research, fellowships advising, and enrichment programming. We support students in their personal, academic, and professional growth at Drexel and beyond. Through advising and programming, we expand access to a full spectrum of experiential learning, empower students to make informed choices, and motivate them to turn passions into opportunities.

# VISION

Our vision is a diverse and inclusive community of intellectually curious and resilient students and alumni who have the confidence to seek out the opportunities that align with their personal, academic, and professional goals and their vision of personal excellence.

# VALUES



**Competence and continuous learning**



**Organizational adaptation and resilience**



**Diversity, equity, and inclusion**



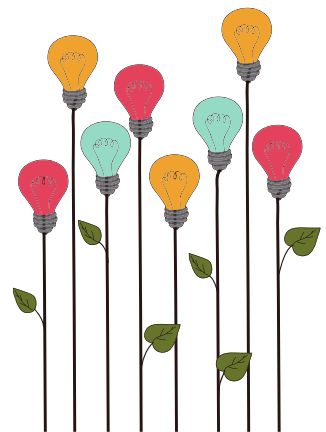
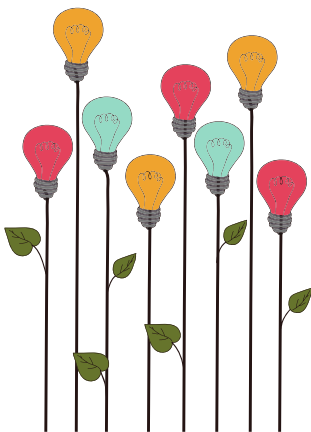
**Transparent and collaborative teamwork**



**Prioritization of students and their individual development**

# DIVERSITY STATEMENT

We are committed to remedying historic injustices and increasing access to opportunities in research, fellowships, and enrichment for students who face systemic barriers to participation. In fostering a diverse and inclusive community of students within our programs, we aim to ensure that historically excluded students see and believe in paths forward to careers they want, that all students are supported as their whole selves in navigating the opportunities we offer, and to help cultivate empathy and mutual understanding.





# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

UREP offers a number of ways for students to get involved in and be supported and recognized while they participate in undergraduate research. We facilitate and increase opportunities for faculty-mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative work, including the Students Tackling Advanced Research (STAR) Scholars Program and SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows, as well as funding for undergraduate research conferences and other research expenses.

## STAR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The STAR Scholars Program is an opportunity for highly motivated first-year students to engage in an early faculty-mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, or creative experience during the summer after their first year. This highly competitive program seeks to identify and encourage students to take a hands-on approach to their education through undergraduate research.

Our Summer 2022 STAR Scholars participated in a revamped slate of summer programming focused on research skills, communication, and self-reflection. Campus partners, including the [Office of Global Engagement](#), [Lindy Center for Civic Engagement](#), and the [Pennoni Honors College Academic Programs and Marketing & Media](#), hosted drop-in hours where students could learn about the variety of opportunities available to them at Drexel.

### QUICK PITCH COMPETITION

STAR Scholars had the opportunity to distill their STAR projects into a **three-minute, one-slide explanation, presented to a general audience**. **29 students** participated across **three sessions**, culminating in a final round where nine students competed to win the competition.

### 2022 WINNERS

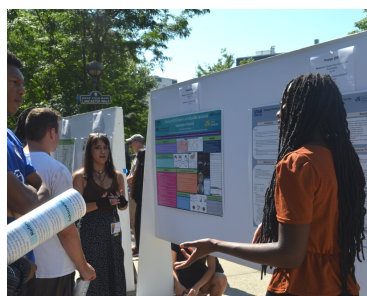
**1st Place:** [Lorelei Booth](#), biomedical engineering '26, "Quantification of Neck Bending Stiffness in Neonatal Piglets"

**2nd Place:** [Francesca Pavluk](#), biological sciences '25, "You Can Turn the Camera Off Now: Performance and Exploitation in Family Vlogging"

**3rd Place:** [Matthew Soesanto](#), biological sciences '26, "Plasma vs. Bacteria: The Fight for Salmon Fillet"

## SUMMER SHOWCASE

The STAR Scholars Summer Showcase is an end-of-summer celebration where students present their work to friends, family, and Drexel community members. The 2022 Summer Showcase took place outdoors on Lancaster Walk. We also hosted a virtual showcase for those who could not attend in person.



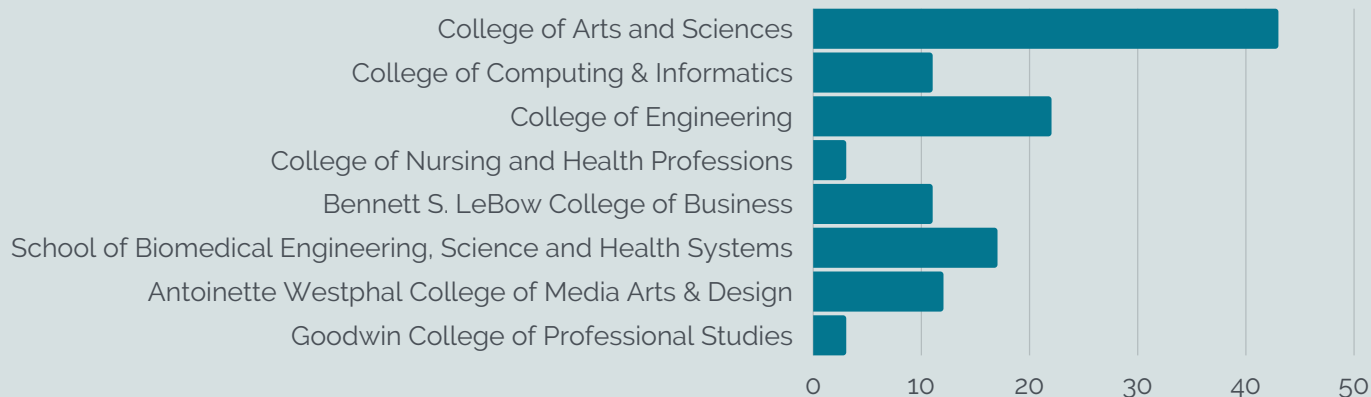
# STAR SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS

Summer 2022:

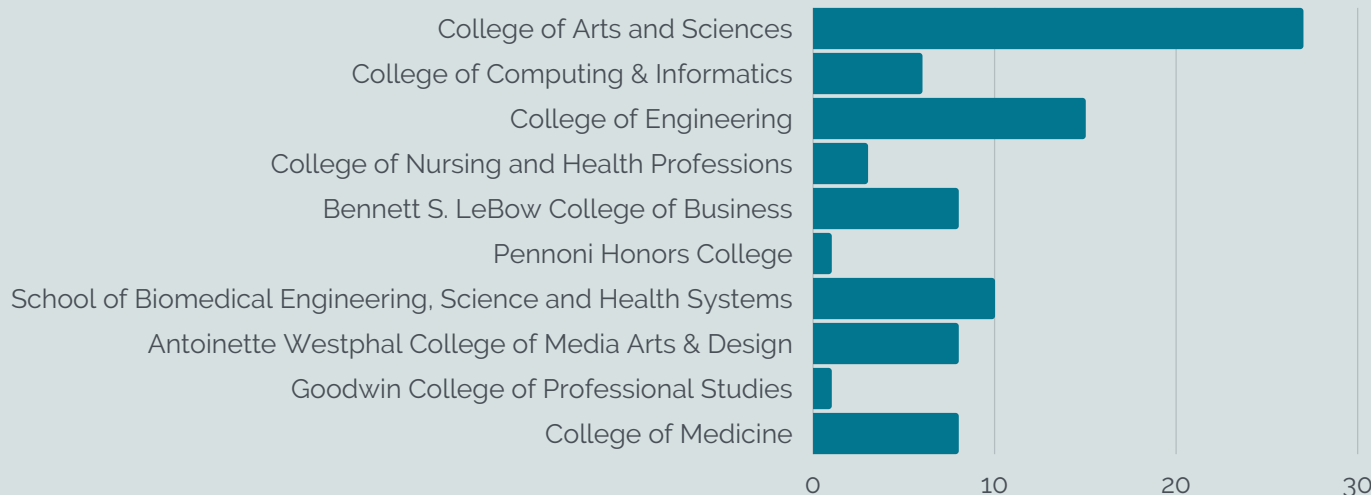
**122** scholars, **88** faculty mentors  
**10 out of 14** colleges & schools

**12 students** participated in the **Velay Fellows Program**, designed to support undergraduate women in STEM pursuing research experiences and careers. This program is funded by the Panaphil and Uphill Foundations.

## STAR SCHOLARS BY COLLEGE



## STAR MENTORS BY COLLEGE



## OUTSTANDING MENTORS OF THE YEAR



**Caroline Schauer, PhD**  
Materials Science & Engineering, CoE

*"Reflecting upon our STAR experiences, we all are truly indebted to Dr. Schauer's endless kindness and passion for bringing community to her laboratory space."*



**Brian Stuart, PhD**  
Computer Science, CCI

*"As a mentor, Dr. Stuart has given us full control over our projects, making it known that I would be working with him, not for him. I often feel he has more faith in me than I do in myself."*

## FACULTY & ALUMNI SERVICE

**77 total external reviewers** assisted with STAR application review in our current student application process, including **54 alumni** and **23 Drexel faculty**. With their help, we were able to ensure that each student's application was read by six different reviewers – two staff in UREP and four external reviewers.

# 20 YEARS OF STAR SCHOLARS

This academic year marked the 20th year of the STAR Scholars Program. Over 2,000 Drexel students have completed the STAR Scholars Program since it began, and these students and alumni identify the program as having been transformative and impactful. To celebrate the legacy of 20 Years of STAR, UREP held a logo design contest, collected testimonials from program alumni, and hosted a summer lunch & learn lecture series featuring STAR alumni and faculty mentors.

20 YEARS OF  
**STAR**  
SCHOLARS

=

**2,305**  
STAR Scholars

=

**867,450**  
hours of  
mentored activity

Thank you to our...



Total faculty mentors

Three faculty have mentored students since the first year of STAR:

- **Glen Muschio, PhD**, Digital Media, Westphal
- **Margaret Wheatley, PhD**, Biomedical Engineering, BIOMED
- **Richard Cairncross, PhD**, Chemical & Biological Engineering, CoE

These faculty have mentored the most students:\*

- **Youngmoo Kim, PhD**, Electrical & Computer Engineering, CoE - **45 students**
- **Felice Elefant, PhD**, Biology, CoAS - **40 students**
- **Ajmal Yousuff, PhD**, Mechanical Engineering, CoE - **36 students**

\*from 2002-2022, excluding missing data from 2004 & 2005

## STAR SCHOLARS ALUMNI



**Kristine Loh**, BS chemical engineering, MS materials science & engineering '20, **2016 STAR Scholar**  
*Kristine is an NSF Graduate Research Fellow & College of Science & Engineering Fellow at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, where she is pursuing a PhD in chemical engineering.*

"I would not be where I am today without the STAR Scholars Program. As someone who didn't have familial or community connections in STEM, I don't think I would have even been informed of research opportunities without the formal structure of a program like STAR. The independence, confidence, and comfort I have in myself and my abilities as a researcher started with STAR."



**Matt Wiese**, BS/MS mechanical engineering '18, **2014 STAR Scholar**

*Matt is a mechanical engineer at the US Naval Research Laboratory.*

"I learned an incredible amount about robotics and software design, but the biggest takeaway was learning the research mindset. STAR gave me the first glimpse of research; the feeling of excitement, uncertainty, and innovation that borders the line between an idea and reality."



**Ryan Measel**, BS computer engineering, MS electrical engineering, PhD electrical engineering '11, **2006 STAR Scholar**

*Ryan is a VP of Engineering at TIER Mobility, which recently acquired the company he founded with a fellow Drexel alum.*

"Getting to work on real research projects with budgets, deliverables, and timelines sets context early on for how to work in a professional research environment. [STAR] put me on the path to feeling confident enough to run my own projects in grad school and ultimately launch a company."

## LOGO DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS:

1st Place:  
**Rhythm Osan**  
architectural  
engineering '26  
**2022 STAR**  
Scholar



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF...

**STAR**  
**SCHOLARS**

2nd Place: **Krishna Shah**  
biological sciences '24  
**2021 STAR Scholar**



3rd Place:  
**Rahul Inaganti**  
environmental  
studies &  
sustainability '25  
**2022 STAR**  
Scholar



# SUPERNOVA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

The SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows Program enables students to document, reflect on, and be recognized for their sustained engagement in research and research-related experiences throughout their undergraduate careers. Students earn recognition for their participation in research experiences, conference presentations, fellowships applications, and more through digital badging and work towards one of two designations: Research Fellow or the higher designation of SuperNova, which appears on the student's transcript upon graduation.

**In 2021-22, seven seniors graduated in the SuperNova Program, five of whom achieved the SuperNova designation.** Six of our graduates are pursuing advanced degrees, including PhDs, a JD, an MD, an MPH, and an MS.

## OUR 2021-22 SUPERNOVA GRADUATES:



**Sumaiya Begum**  
BS biological sciences '22



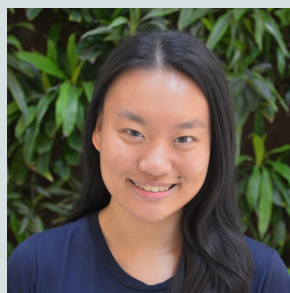
**Audrey Coffey**  
BS psychology '22



**Emily Johns**  
BA chemistry,  
BS environmental science '22



**Jasjit Kaur**  
BS chemistry '22



**Merry Xiang**  
BS biological sciences '22



**Merlin Kochunilathil**  
BS biological sciences '22



**Zeal Jinwala**  
BS biomedical engineering '22

“

*“The most impactful lesson I learned is that while adversity is inevitable, having faith in myself and my research teammates can get me through any obstacle. Research isn't linear nor is it perfect. However, having a team of amazing researchers by your side as well as having confidence in your own research abilities allows you to overcome errors, unexpected results, and any other hurdles that come along in the adventure research really is!” - Sumaiya Begum*

”



“

*“Conducting research as an undergrad at Drexel has helped strengthen my passion for learning. I hope to continue to enjoy the learning process and discovering new topics as I pursue my professional career.” - Merry Xiang*

”



# ENGAGING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



## LSAMP-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

UREP collaborated with the **Drexel University Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP)** to continue to **increase support for underrepresented students in STEM to participate in research opportunities**. Notably, LSAMP provided partial financial support for 11 LSAMP-eligible students to participate in the STAR Scholars Program in Summer 2022 and additional financial support for nine underrepresented students to participate in the second year of the Pathway to SuperNova program. We look forward to continuing this collaboration to support LSAMP-eligible students in the 2022-23 academic year.

## LAUNCHPAD TO STAR

**Launchpad to STAR** invites underrepresented students to receive **priority consideration for STAR by participating in a variety of workshops** designed to help them understand what research is and how to get involved. This year, 12 students completed the program requirements, 11 of whom applied to STAR, and nine of whom were accepted.



## PATHWAY TO SUPERNOVA

In its second year, **Pathway to SuperNova** continued to **engage underrepresented STEM students in a research training program**, led by CNHP professors Jennifer Nasser, PhD, and Michael Bruneau Jr., PhD, **followed by a paid, part-time, faculty-mentored research experience**, funded by Drexel LSAMP.

This year, we expanded the training program to include presentations by Drexel faculty about their journeys as researchers. We would like to thank Nicolas Alvarez, PhD, CoE; Michael Bruneau Jr., PhD, CNHP; Michelle Dolinski, PhD, CoAS; Thomas Heverin, PhD, CCI; Justine Sefcik, PhD, CNHP; Kara Spiller, PhD, BIOMED; Maureen Tang, PhD, CoE; and Dane Ward, PhD, CoAS for sharing their stories with our Pathway to SuperNova students.



We had nine students and nine mentors in our 2021-22 Pathway to SuperNova cohort. Two students elected to enroll in the SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows Program, signifying their continued interest in engaging in undergraduate research.

# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS & CONFERENCES

Undergraduate Research and Enrichment Programs supports student researchers who have been accepted to present their work at local, national, and international conferences. Students who present work at such events can apply for partial travel funding. We offer reimbursements up to a certain amount for students traveling to domestic and international conferences.

## GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS



Total amount of money awarded to students as travel grants & mini-grants



Total **travel grant** funding awarded in FY 22, for **17** students who attended **11** different conferences



Total **mini-grant** funding awarded in FY 22 for **10** Winter Term grants and **9** Spring Term grants

## TRAVEL GRANTS

Students attended virtual conferences including:

- National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
- National Collegiate Research Conference (NCRC)

Students also returned to in-person attendance at many conferences, including:

- American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference
- Sociologists for Women in Society Conference
- Biophysical Society Annual Meeting
- American Colleges of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting
- INFORMS Optimization Society Conference

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MINI-GRANTS

Undergraduate Research Mini-Grants **support faculty and student collaboration** in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative work at the university while also offering undergraduate students the **opportunity to build skills in crafting effective application materials for funding opportunities**. In 2022-23, student and faculty pairs were able to apply for **grants of up to \$1,500** for the Winter and Spring Terms to defray research costs, including equipment, materials, publication fees, and even student pay.

UREP used funds provided by the **Glenn '48 and Grace Ruth Endowment** to send five students to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) in Fall 2021:

- Alyssa Kemp, environmental engineering '25
- Will Newman, computer science '24
- Niyi Onanuga, architecture '25
- Catherine Quinn, environmental science '23
- Sarah Wetzel, public health '23

“

*“I made connections with delegates from across the world and listened to indigenous leaders, climate scientists, and government officials. The conference was an astounding opportunity that deepened my understanding of climate change and its effects on society while confirming my desire to continue my education in environmental engineering to implement change in my local community.” – Alyssa Kemp*

”





# FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships are opportunities to expand students' learning and development beyond Drexel through funded experiences in research, travel, leadership, graduate study, and more. Undergraduate Research and Enrichment Programs raises campus-wide awareness of these opportunities and directly helps students create strong applications through intensive individual advising and support.

## FELLOWSHIPS LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Receiving a fellowship is a fantastic honor, but **the process of developing an application is itself a high-impact growth experience**. As part of an ongoing effort to better communicate the **value of the process**, we developed the following set of learning objectives.

**As a result of participating in the fellowships application and advising process, students/alumni will be able to do some or all of the following:**

- Reflect on and make narrative sense of formative experiences
- Articulate the value of their own knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Clarify their personal and professional aspirations
- Identify possible paths to career goals
- Cultivate relationships with faculty and professional mentors
- Feel confident in their writing and/or interviewing abilities
- Identify areas for future professional/personal/academic growth

## FELLOWSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Fellowships Applicants: **153**

Awardees & Honorable  
Mentions: **54**



**Hours Spent Advising**

Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

### APPLICANTS BY COLLEGE

- College of Arts and Sciences: **51**
- College of Engineering: **26**
- LeBow College of Business: **25**
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems: **13**
- Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: **6**
- College of Computing & Informatics: **5**
- College of Nursing and Health Professions: **5**
- Dornsife School of Public Health: **5**
- College of Medicine: **5**
- Pennoni Honors College: **4**
- School of Education: **4**
- Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship: **1**
- Goodwin College of Professional Studies: **1**

## FROM OUR APPLICANT SURVEY:

“ Even if I am not offered a fellowship, I am so happy I went through this whole process as I learned a lot about myself and it will help me write more application essays in the future. ”

“ This process has taught me to be better prepared for the other application cycles I hope to apply for in the upcoming months. ”

# SUCCESSES TO CELEBRATE



## Record Number of Gilman Applicants & Recipients



Fall 2021 & Spring 2022



2021-22

Gilman Applicants



2021-22

Gilman Recipients

14 applicants in Fall 2021

13 recipients

18 applicants in Spring 2022

13 recipients

The Gilman Scholarship supports students with financial need who have historically been underrepresented in study abroad, including but not limited to first-generation college students, racial and ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, and students from US states with less study abroad participation.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



After their international co-op in Cambodia was cancelled due to the pandemic, **Akilah Chatman**, BS environmental science '22, successfully applied for a **Fulbright Research Grant to Cambodia** to design a community garden in the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh.



**Sky Harper**, chemistry '24, is Drexel's first nominee and recipient in the **Udall Scholarship's Native health care category**. Sky was also awarded the **Goldwater Scholarship** for top undergraduate students in STEM.



**Coley Ferguson**, real estate management and development '25, received a **CLS Spark award to study Chinese** during the 2022-23 academic year. CLS Spark is a pilot virtual language-learning initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



**Michael Cheng**, a former Drexel High School Scholar (HSS), was selected as a **2022 Rhodes Scholar**. Michael participated in HSS from 2014-2017, when it was run by the Office of Undergraduate Research (now part of UREP).

Working on one fellowship application prepares students for future applications. After applying for but not receiving fellowships, **these students reapplied and received awards:**

**Stephanie Katz**, MS arts administration & museum leadership '20 – 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, **2022-23 Fulbright Research Grant to Spain**

**Grace Zaborski**, environmental studies and sustainability '23 – 2021 Udall Nominee, **2022-23 Udall Scholar, Environmental category**

**Cherelle Connor**, MS biomedical science '19 – 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, **2021-22 American-Scandinavian Foundation Fellow**

**Olivia Wilson**, PhD candidate materials science & engineering – 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, **2021-22 American-Scandinavian Foundation Fellow**

**Abhishek Adhikari**, BS computer engineering '21 – 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, **2022 NSF GRFP Honorable Mention**

**Tajma Cameron**, PhD candidate educational leadership and policy – 2022-23 Fulbright Applicant, **2021 Boren Alternate**

# FACULTY/STAFF PARTICIPATION

Faculty and staff supported our work by participating in **writing groups**, which give students feedback from facilitators and peers on their early drafts, **committees**, which interview and select candidates for endorsement or nomination for specific rewards, and **campus reviews**, which provide intensive, expert feedback on advanced application drafts.

Thank you to our partners  
for your...



**Total Acts of Service**  
Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022



Kaelah Grant, psychology '23  
2022 Gilman to Ghana

## ACTS OF SERVICE BY COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT

- College of Arts and Sciences: **60**
- College of Engineering: **20**
- Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies: **19**
- College of Computing & Informatics: **9**
- Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: **8**
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems: **7**
- School of Education: **4**
- College of Nursing and Health Professions: **4**
- Pennoni Honors College: **4**
- Office of Global Engagement: **4**
- LeBow College of Business: **2**
- Thomas R. Kline School of Law: **2**
- Dornsife School of Public Health: **2**
- College of Medicine: **1**
- Enrollment Management & Student Success: **1**
- Steinbright Career Development Center: **1**
- Drexel University Online: **1**



Akilah Chatman  
BS environmental science '22  
2022-23 Fulbright to Cambodia



Stephanie Katz  
MS arts administration & museum leadership '20  
2022-23 Fulbright to Spain



Kai Thompson, marketing '25  
2022 Freeman-ASIA to Japan

**COVID-19 & International Fellowships:** Many international fellowships resumed in-person activities in 2021 and 2022. Students who deferred their awards from previous years were able to use their grants, though some had to change their destinations and others declined due to logistical challenges.



# UNDERGRADUATE ENRICHMENT

Undergraduate Research and Enrichment Programs works with students and partners across the University to provide workshops, resources, and programming designed to help undergraduates enhance their educational experiences, engage in self-reflective learning, and encourage informed decision-making. From sessions on getting involved in and presenting research to writing personal statements and getting strong recommendations, we help students navigate all stages of their academic careers.

## WORKSHOPS

UREP offers interactive **workshops, events, and other learning opportunities** throughout the academic year designed to support students while at Drexel and prepare them for their future goals. Workshops include **finding and talking to faculty mentors**, asking for **letters of recommendation**, and other personal and professional development strategies.



Total events held  
Fall 2021-Summer 2022

### FINDING AND TALKING TO FACULTY MENTORS

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs



### PERSONAL WRITING WORKSHOP

A workshop for undergraduates on writing personal statements for scholarships, fellowships, graduate school applications, and more.

### JOINING THE RESEARCH CONVERSATION

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs



### Leveraging Global Experiences: What's Next?



## WEEK OF UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE

The Week of Undergraduate Excellence (WUE) is a week-long celebration held in the spring recognizing excellence across the university. This year, we returned to an in-person celebration with some events held virtually. **Thank you to our 2022 collaborators, who worked with us to make this week a success:**

Office of Global Engagement | Education Abroad | PHC Academic Programs | PHC Marketing & Media | Westphal Performing Arts | LeBow College of Business | Painted Bride Quarterly

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**ICON KEY**

- Inter-disciplinary
- STEM
- Global
- Business/Entrepreneurship
- Social Sciences
- Humanities/Creative & Performing Arts

MONDAY, MAY 16	TUESDAY, MAY 17	WEDNESDAY, MAY 18	THURSDAY, MAY 19	FRIDAY, MAY 20
<p><b>11am-12pm</b> CSDN Capstone Presentation Andy Carr: "The History of Philadelphia Through Food"</p> <p><b>3-4pm</b> Honors Program Panel of Work Honors Program students present their Honors Option extension projects.</p> <p><b>4:30-6pm</b> Anti-Resume Project Pop-Up Stop by our table and learn more about this project!</p>	<p><b>12-1pm</b> Job Seeking Warriors - Your Guide to Winning A roundtable for undergraduate aspiring job seekers.</p> <p><b>2:30-3:30pm</b> CSDN Capstone Presentation Barbara Chernyavsky: "An Analysis on Cleaning: Exploring Paint, Paper, Textile"</p> <p><b>4-5pm</b> WUE Writing Slam</p> <p><b>5:30-7pm</b> Performing Arts Showcase</p>	<p><b>12-1pm</b> So You're Thinking About a PhD? A workshop for planning applications to research-based doctoral graduate programs.</p> <p><b>1:30-2:30pm</b> CSDN Capstone Presentation Vy Nguyen: "Flourish - A Digital Solution to Improve Plant Care"</p> <p><b>3-5pm</b> WUE Button-Making x UREP Drop-in Hours</p> <p><b>5-6pm</b> LeBowX</p> <p><b>6-8pm</b> Nerd Night @ Drexel U</p>	<p><b>9am-5pm</b> Student Conference on Global Challenges: Live Well Virtual conference addressing what it means to age and develop across the world across disciplines.</p> <p><b>2-3pm</b> CSDN Capstone Presentation Josh Goldhaber: "Music Driven Theatrical Storytelling"</p> <p><b>3:30-5pm</b> Pennoni Panel A New Era for Student-Athletes: Grappling With Name, Image &amp; Likeness</p> <p><b>4-7pm</b> Pennoni Honors College Game Night</p>	<p><b>10am-12pm</b> UREP Student Celebration (invitation only)</p> <p><b>2:30-3:30pm</b> CSDN Capstone Presentation Kate Ryan "Tyonek, Alaska Alternative Energy Project"</p> <p><b>WEEK LONG EVENT: VIRTUAL POSTER SESSION</b> View student research posters throughout the week at <a href="https://bit.ly/WUE2022postersession">bit.ly/WUE2022postersession</a></p>

**VIEW FULL EVENT DETAILS & REGISTER:**  
[drexel.edu/week-of-undergraduate-excellence](https://drexel.edu/week-of-undergraduate-excellence)

## NERD NIGHT @ DREXEL U

After two years in the virtual world, Nerd Night @ Drexel U returned as an in-person event. Bentley Hall's second floor collaborative space provided the perfect venue for student presentations and trivia.

### PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS:



**Serenity Baruzzini**, engineering '25 – "Furby Physiology: Seeing the World Through the Eyes of a Furby"

**Alexis Wiley**, BS environmental science '22 – "Lessons of Da Land: Food Sovereignty and Land Justice in Philadelphia"

**Amanda Collins**, biomedical engineering '23 – "Canine scent detection of sinonasal inverted papilloma (SNIP) in blood plasma and nasal secretions"

**Kara Moran**, health sciences '24 – "Medical Burnout"



## DEI EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

UREP is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in undergraduate research, fellowships, and enrichment. In 2021-22, we continued our Candid Conversations series and hosted other DEI-focused events in collaboration with campus partners. Thank you to the offices and student organizations that partnered with us for these events and brought their unique perspectives to the topics discussed.

### CANDID CONVERSATIONS

**Preserving Indigenous Heritage in a Modern Context:** In honor of Indigenous Heritage Month, we partnered with **Drexel Indigenous Students of the Americas** to examine the history of indigenous people in North America. Student panelists shared how they find strength through their cultural identities, spoke about indigenous traditions and practices, and discussed the challenges of preserving their heritage in a modern world.

**First-Generation Researchers:** Held in collaboration with **First Forward** in honor of First-Generation Student Day, this event featured first-generation faculty members speaking about the routes they took to get involved in research. A Q&A followed with the panelists, Jennifer Quinlan, professor of nutrition sciences, CNHP, and Dane Ward, assistant professor of biodiversity, earth & environmental science, CoAS.

**Breaking the Mold: Standards of Professionalism:** This Candid Conversation featured three Black women with professional connections to Drexel: Wendy Greene, JD, Kline School of Law; Aja Carter, PhD, BS biology '14; and Whitney Kerr, MS. Together we discussed standards of professionalism, respectability politics, and how to be your authentic self while maintaining professionalism in the workplace. This event was part of a series on developing professional skills and was held during **Pennoni Womxn's Week**.

**What's in a Name?:** Drexel faculty and staff joined in a conversation about the value of names and fostering a sense of belonging in educational spaces. Participants discussed the importance of individual identity and the cultural significance of names and brainstormed methods to make our spaces more inclusive and intentional.

## PENNONI WOMXN'S WEEK MARCH 1-5

This year's **Pennoni Womxn's Week** celebrated womxn at Drexel and discussed issues and challenges facing womxn today. **PHC Academic Programs, Marketing & Media**, and **UREP** collaborated to host a week-long series of events. We kicked off the week with **"Breaking the Mold," a Candid Conversations panel discussion** about workplace standards of professionalism for Black womxn. We piloted social media highlights of Drexel students and organizations with **Womxn's Org Wednesday** and a **Womxn in STEM: Lightning Talk** about finding community as a black woman in tech. Other events included the **Pennoni Panel "Exploring Intersectionality"** and a **donation drive for Philadelphia-area non-profits**.



# ASPIRE SCHOLARS

The Aspire Scholars Program is designed to provide promising, curious, and motivated Drexel sophomores an opportunity to further develop and clarify their goals. Scholars attend monthly group meetings to develop mentoring goals, craft strategies for identifying and building successful mentoring relationships, and reflect on professional and career development plans.

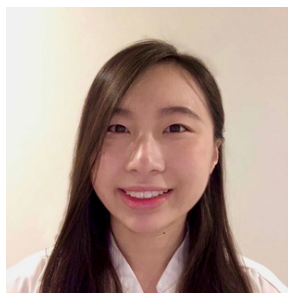
## OUR 2021-22 ASPIRE SCHOLARS:



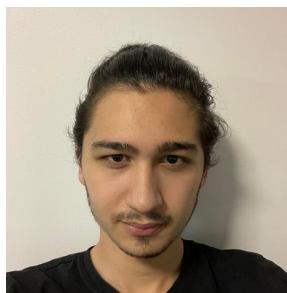
**Serenity Baruzzini**  
engineering '25



**Ethan Binder**  
screenwriting &  
playwriting '24



**Quynh Bui**  
health sciences '25



**Elias Gkouveris**  
physics '25



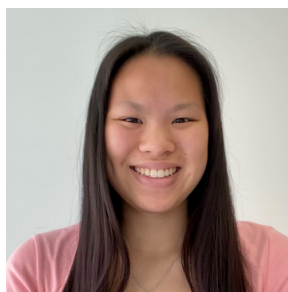
**Tamir Gorham**  
philosophy, politics &  
economics '25



**Sky Harper**  
chemistry '24



**Alyssa Kemp**  
environmental  
engineering '25



**Eva Kraus**  
biomedical engineering  
'25



**Luyang Liu**  
electrical engineering  
'24



**Lakshmi  
Parvathinathan**  
biological sciences '24



**Nisha Patel**  
biological sciences '25



**Atara Saunders**  
global studies '25



**Griffin Stein**  
biomedical engineering  
'25



**Alexander Vallarta**  
biological sciences '25



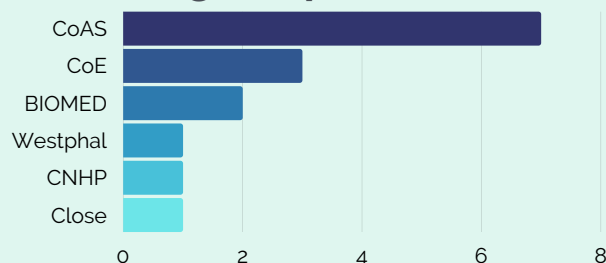
**Lydia Victor**  
entrepreneurship &  
innovation '23

## 2021-22 ASPIRE STATS



**Total  
applications  
for 2021-22**

### College Representation





# ASPIRE SCHOLARS: MEETINGS & CULTURAL EVENTS

Aspire Scholars monthly meetings were held in a hybrid format, with students attending in person and others joining virtually. The cohort met in multiple groups due to scheduling conflicts with co-ops, classes, and other commitments, which is the norm for this annual program. Over the summer, students were able to go on cultural outings including a visit to the Penn Museum and a Phillies game!

## Topics from student meetings:

- Goals and future planning
- Mentorship and networking
- Informational interviews and cold emails
- Personal strategic career and academic planning
- Personal reflection



## FROM OUR PROGRAM SURVEYS...

“ [I benefitted from] learning techniques regarding creating and sticking to career goals, both long term and short term. ”

“ We learned ways to build connections and methods of goal setting. These are very helpful for me regarding making plans and communicating with others. ”

“ Strategic planning has been super beneficial. I feel that it encompasses the vision and goal setting [workshop] but on a deeper level. ”

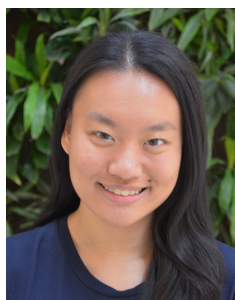
“ For me, the biggest thing would have to have been the strategic plan. I feel that I was really able to customize it and learn more about myself and my wants through the process. ”

“ I have benefited the most from my meeting with an Aspire alumni and my informational interview meeting. From the alumni meeting, I got to talk to another student about my co-op and interests and got a good perspective of an older student's experiences. From the informational interview I got to talk to a working professional in my field of interest. ”

# UREP AMBASSADORS

UREP Ambassadors is a paid program comprised of students who have been deeply involved with our programs. Ambassadors connect with undergraduate students, serve as peer mentors for STAR Scholars, and assist with events, information sessions, and drop-in hours.

## FALL/WINTER AMBASSADORS:



**Merry Xiang**  
BS biological sciences '22  
STAR Scholar,  
SuperNova, travel grant recipient



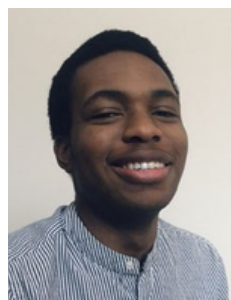
**Julia Dengler**  
biomedical engineering '23  
STAR Scholar, fellowship applicant



**Dhruv Shah**  
mechanical engineering '23  
STAR Scholar, SuperNova, fellowship applicant, WUE presenter



**María Paula Mijares Torres**  
communication '23  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar



**Darrell Omo-Lamai**  
materials science & engineering '23  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, SuperNova



**Nate Nguyen**  
materials science '25  
STAR Scholar

## SPRING/SUMMER AMBASSADORS:



**Ramya Ashish**  
biomedical engineering '23  
STAR Scholar, WUE presenter



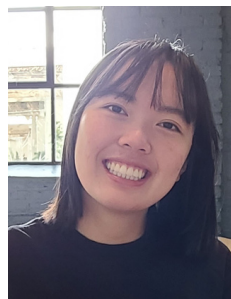
**Neha Chongtham**  
biological sciences '23  
STAR Scholar



**Sky Harper**  
chemistry '24  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, SuperNova, fellowship recipient, travel grant recipient, Nerd Night presenter



**Alyssa Kemp**  
environmental engineering '25  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, SuperNova, fellowship applicant, travel grant recipient



**Elizabeth Le**  
civil & architectural engineering '24  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, fellowship recipient



**Lydia Victor**  
entrepreneurship & innovation '23  
Aspire Scholar



Total number of hours worked since January 2022\*

\*When we began using our current tracking system



Spring/Summer UREP Ambassadors hosting a social for STAR Scholars at Cira Green



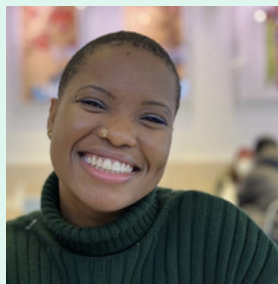
# UREP FREQUENT FLYERS

Deepening our connection as a merged office has helped us serve students more holistically by integrating research, fellowships, and enrichment. We want to highlight some of our office's "frequent flyers": students who have participated in multiple programs and opportunities and who exemplify the purpose of our office.



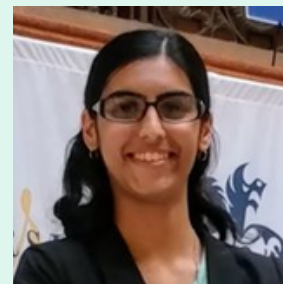
**Sky Harper**  
chemistry '24

Sky was a **2021 STAR Scholar** and a **2021-22 Aspire Scholar**. He has applied for and received multiple fellowships, including the **Goldwater Scholarship** and the **Udall Scholarship** in the Native health care category. He is in **SuperNova** and has presented at **Nerd Night** and received **travel grants** to present at conferences. Sky shared his wealth of experience with our office as a **UREP Ambassador**.



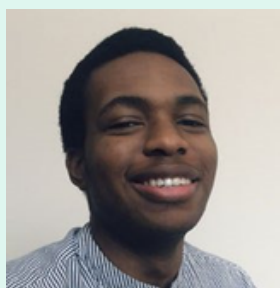
**Akilah Chatman**  
BS environmental science '22

Akilah received an **Undergraduate Research Mini-Grant** to support a research co-op with Dr. Dane Ward after their international co-op in Cambodia was cancelled due to COVID-19. They successfully applied for a **Fulbright Research Grant** to Cambodia to create a community garden in conjunction with The Idea Lab, their original intended co-op employer, and the National Ministry of Education.



**Sarah Malik**  
PhD candidate mechanical engineering, BS business & engineering '20

Sarah has engaged with UREP from her first year at Drexel through grad school. A **2016 STAR Scholar**, she worked with our office on multiple graduate fellowship applications. She received a **2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship** and a **2022 ASME Donald O. Thompson Graduate Student Fellowship**. In 2022, Sarah won an **Outstanding Graduate Student Mentorship Award**, sponsored by UREP.



**Darrell Omo-Lamai**  
materials science & engineering '23

Darrell was a **2019 STAR Scholar** and a **2019-20 Aspire Scholar**. He was a **UREP Ambassador** and is participating in **SuperNova**. Currently, Darrell is working with our office to **apply for fellowships for graduate school**, where he plans to pursue a PhD in materials science.



**Abbey Keller**  
health sciences '22

Abbey was a **2019 STAR Scholar** and a two-time fellowship applicant. She received the **Gilman Scholarship** to study abroad in South Korea in Summer 2020, but was unable to use the award due to the pandemic. Abbey persevered to successfully **reapply for Gilman** in 2021 and studied abroad in Costa Rica in Spring 2022.



**Alyssa Kemp**  
environmental engineering '25

Alyssa was a **2021 STAR Scholar** and **Velay Fellow** and a **2021-22 Aspire Scholar**. She received a **travel grant** to attend the UN Climate Change Conference and was one of Drexel's 2022 **Udall Scholarship** nominees in the environmental category. Alyssa is one of our **UREP Ambassadors** and is participating in **SuperNova**.



# CONNECT WITH UREP!

@DrexelUREP

Follow our office on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn for information on upcoming events, programs, and fellowships, along with celebrations of and highlights from our students and more!

## STUDENTS BEHIND OUR SOCIALS

This year, we had two wonderful student employees who worked hard to make our social media useful and engaging! **Medina Talebi**, BA political science '21, and **Renee Amos**, custom-designed major '25, researched, designed, drafted, and created posts and campaigns for our social accounts. Medina worked for us in Fall 2021 and Renee in Spring and Summer 2022.



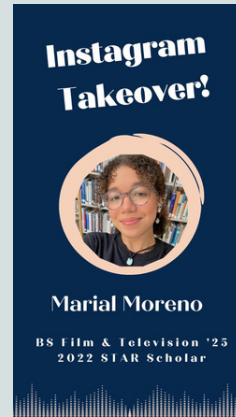
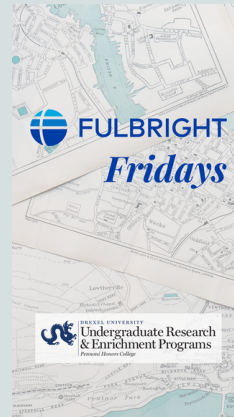
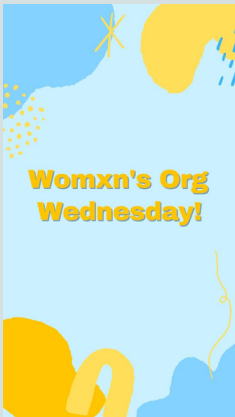
Medina Talebi



Renee Amos

## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Instagram continues to be our most popular social media platform. We conducted several Instagram campaigns this year, including **Womxn's Org Wednesday**, **Recognizing Excellence in Others** for the WUE, **Fulbright Fridays**, **STAR Scholars takeovers**, **UREP Ambassadors introductions**, and more.



## TOP SOCIAL POSTS OF THE YEAR:



95 likes

drexelurep 📸 Summer Showcase photo dump pt.2!  
Lots of smiles despite the heat ☀️🔥



74 likes

drexelurep Congratulations to Drexel's Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Gilman Scholars! The Gilman

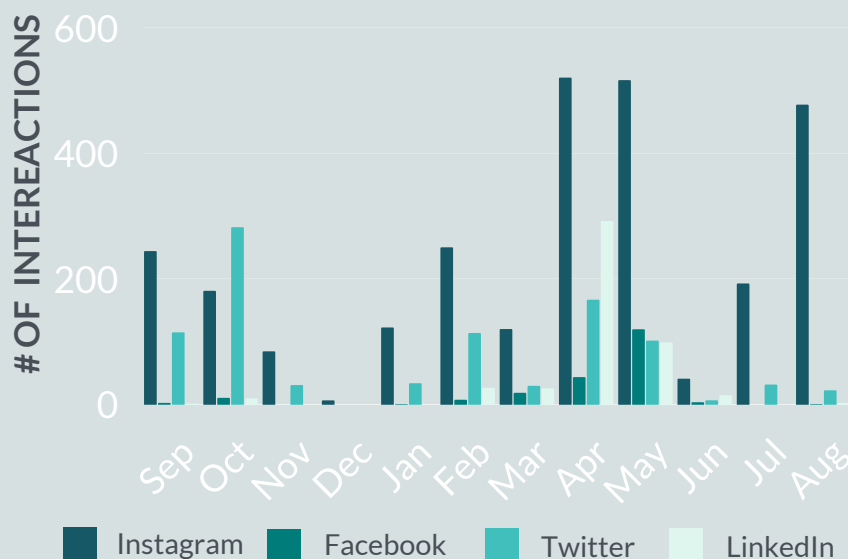


72 likes

drexelurep Satvik Tripathi @satvicc is a first-year computer science student in @drexel\_cci who has

# SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

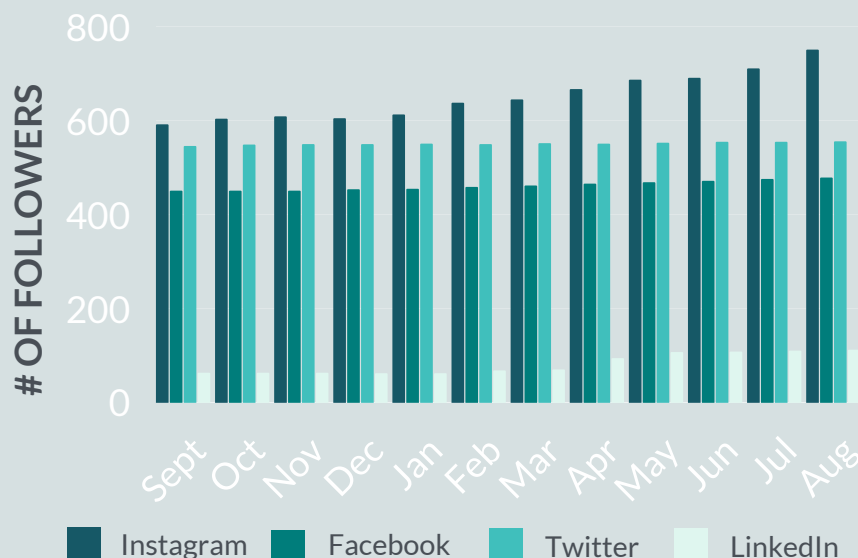
## ENGAGEMENT



We averaged **365 engagements per month** across all social platforms.

Our Instagram account had the highest number of engagements, with a total of **over 2,800 engagements**.

## FOLLOWING



Between Sept. 2021 and Aug. 2022, we had a **15% increase** in our following across all social platforms.

Our Instagram account had an **increase of 159 followers**, the largest of all platforms.

Our LinkedIn following **grew by 77%**, the largest percent increase.

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

**Website:** [drexel.edu/pennoni/urep](https://drexel.edu/pennoni/urep)

**Email:** [urep@drexel.edu](mailto:urep@drexel.edu)

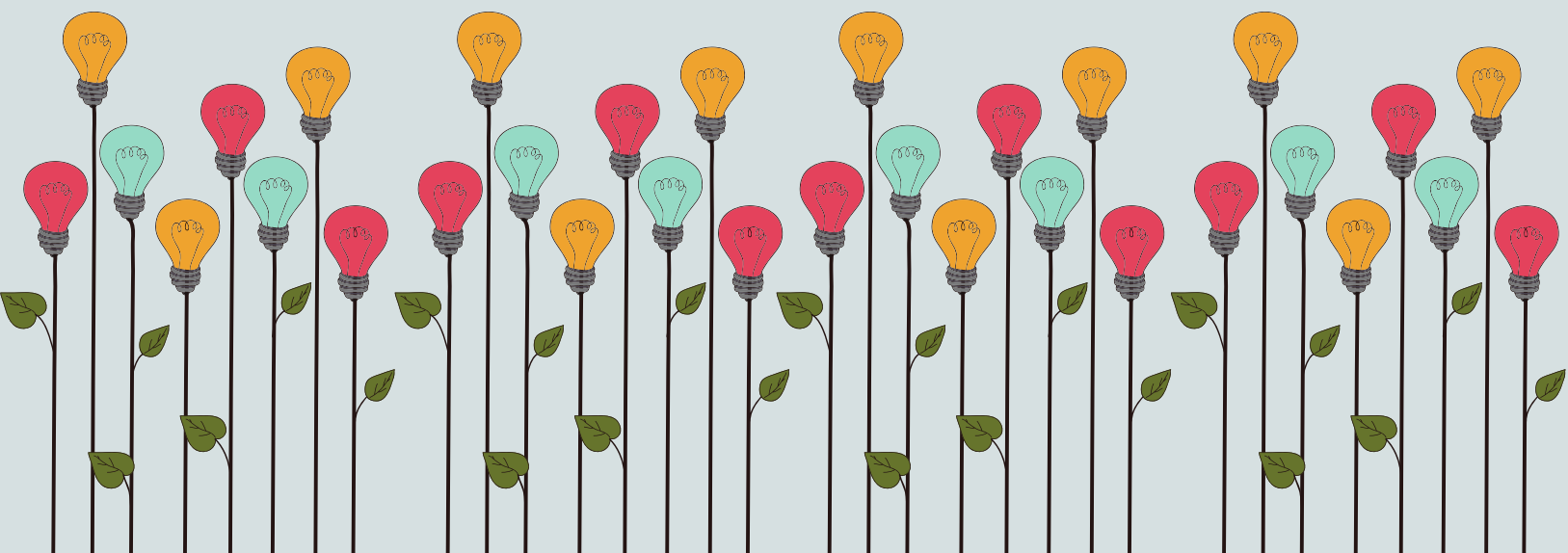
**Upcoming Events:** [drexel.edu/pennoni/urep/events](https://drexel.edu/pennoni/urep/events)

**Socials:** @DrexelUREP

### Offices:

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Bentley Hall, Second Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19104





DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Research  
& Enrichment Programs

*Pennoni Honors College*