

# The Honor Roll

A Quarterly Newsletter for Honors  
Students, Alumni, Parents and Friends

Spring 2010: Issue 3

## Drexel Opens Office of Undergraduate Research with Launch of *Discover* Website

On Tuesday, April 6th, Drexel launched *Discover*, an online resource for undergraduate research, at <http://www.drexel.edu/discover>. With the launch of *Discover*, Drexel joins the ranks of major research universities in having a tool to be used by faculty and undergraduate students to post, market, and track research and creative opportunities. A key feature of the website is the creation of a permanent database of student participation in undergraduate research, scholarship, or creative activities that will enable the University to document the scope and level of undergraduate research activity. Beginning with the current academic year, all STAR research placements will be conducted using the new *Discover* site, with the hope that opportunities will be made for all undergraduates beginning in fall, 2010.



The launch of *Discover* is the first activity of Drexel's new Office of Undergraduate Research, which is headed by Suzanne Rocheleau, Ph.D. Associate Dean of the Pennoni Honors College, with the support of Elaine O'Loughlin, Assistant Dean. With the creation of this new office, we will

## Drexel Honors Students Earn Graduate Fellowships



Amanda White

Three Honors students have been recognized this year by the **Goldwater Foundation**, the premier national award for undergraduates in sciences, technology, engineering, and math. The purpose of the award is to support academically-talented college students who intend to pursue research-oriented careers in these fields.

Huge congratulations to **Daniel Verbaro '10** in Biology/Chemistry and to **Amanda White '10** in Physics, each of whom received the Goldwater Scholarship, and to **Magda Bielinski '10** in Electrical Engineering, who received an Honorable Mention. All three of these students are members of the Pennoni Honors College, and both Amanda and Magda participated in the STAR Program during their freshman year.

Daniel intends to get a PhD in Physical Chemistry, researching biophysical molecules that are associated with disease states like prions, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's.

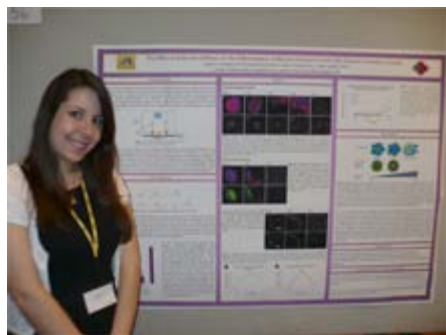
Amanda wants to earn a PhD in Astrophysics and to work as a research scientist in the areas of extragalactic astronomy and cosmology. Her goal is to find new and better ways of making observations in order to expand the scientific knowledge base.

continue to manage the STAR program and expand opportunities for research, scholarship, and creative work to all undergraduates as a part of their Drexel educational experience.

For additional information about undergraduate research at Drexel, please contact Suzanne Rocheleau, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Pennoni Honors College and Director of Undergraduate Research at [Rocheleau@drexel.edu](mailto:Rocheleau@drexel.edu) or 215-895-5805.



## STAR Scholars Present Research at Colonial Academic Alliance Research Symposium



From April 16-17, six

Sophomore STAR Scholars represented Drexel University in oral and poster presentations at the Colonial Academic Alliance Research Symposium held at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. Valerie Tutweiler '13 gave an oral presentation: "The Effect of Substrate Stiffness on the Differentiation of Murine Embryonic Stem Cells Towards Endoderm Lineage" while Joseph Schaible '13, Genymphas Higgs '13, Antony Kiptoo '13, Greta Loftgren '13, and Anirban Ghosh '13 presented posters. More than 100 undergraduate students from the twelve colleges and universities attended.



The Colonial Academic Alliance was founded in 2002 by the provosts of the institutions of the Colonial Athletic Association. Its membership includes the University of Delaware, Drexel University, George Mason University, Georgia

Magda expects to pursue a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering with a specialty in Telecommunications. She would like to conduct research to improve the capacity, throughput, spectral efficiency, and power consumption of wireless communications networks.

## Three Drexel Students Earn Fulbright Fellowships



*Kent Troutman*



*Karen Miller*

**Karen Miller** (Architectural Engineering BS, Science, Technology, and Society MS, 2010) has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar for the 2010-11 academic year. Karen will be going to Turkey to work with local communities on preservation of historic monuments and bridges. Karen studied abroad in Turkey as an undergraduate. She is an Honors student/mentor and has been very active with the Center for Civic Engagement.

**Kara Spiller**, (Biomedical Engineering BS/PhD 2010). Kara has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar to Portugal, where she will be working on tissue-scaffolding for damaged cartilage with the 3B lab at the University of Minho in Guimaraes. Kara conducted graduate-level research in a Shanghai lab last year. Kara was an Honors student/mentor and one of Drexel's first STAR Scholars.

**Kent Troutman**, (Finance BS, '10), has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar for 2010-11 academic year. Kent will be going to Sichuan province of China to study and research the structure of rural finance at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. Kent studied abroad in Beijing this year.



## An Interview with Kara Spiller, Ph.D. '10

State University, Hofstra University, James Madison University, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Northeastern University, Old Dominion University, Towson University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the College of William and Mary. The CAA research alliance links the 12 universities of the Colonial Athletic Alliance in a variety of events designed to leverage the "power of twelve." The Undergraduate Research Conference gives students from CAA schools an opportunity to share their work with their peers in a professional setting. The conference rotates among the participants' campuses each year.



## Next Steps...

The Pennoni Honors College is dedicated to the development of Drexel's best and brightest students. Your contribution of \$20 or more will help us defray the increasing costs of quality programming and fund the participation of students to cultural events and travel-integrated courses. We encourage you to visit our website, [www.drexel.edu/honors](http://www.drexel.edu/honors) to get more information about our programs. And always feel free to call the Pennoni Honors College at 215-895-1267 with questions.

**To support the important work of the Pennoni Honors College, please send donations to** — Pennoni Honors College, c/o John Keleher, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President, Office of Institutional Advancement, 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Pennoni Honors College.



### **Tell us about yourself and what you'll be doing next year...**

Next year, I will be a Fulbright scholar in Portugal, conducting biomedical research and developing international education exchanges. Besides the Fulbright, there are tons of funding opportunities to support students' international research (PHC and the Fellowships office are great resources) so there is no excuse to not pursue opportunities abroad!

### **What inspired you to choose the Bs/Ph.D. program?**

I started at Drexel in 2002 in the first class of the SuperNOVA BS/PhD program. I didn't really know at the time if I wanted a PhD or not, but when I began conducting research as a STAR scholar in 2003 in the lab of Dr. Margaret Wheatley, I knew that I loved academic research. In 2004, I began conducting research towards my PhD in the Biomaterials and Drug Delivery Lab, under the guidance of Dr. Tony Lowman. This year, I will be the first student to complete the BS/PhD program.

### **How did the PHC contribute to your Drexel education and prepare you for graduate school?**

Although I loved all of my Honors classes, the biggest influence from the PHC that I felt was encouragement to become active in research, even at such a young age. Research enhanced my education enormously and allowed me to meet the leaders in my field and to travel the world.

### **What advice would you give to current undergraduates?**

I hope more undergraduate students will become involved in research, and especially in international collaborations. I spent two four-month periods conducting research in Shanghai, China. I grew personally, academically, and professionally; it really changed my life.

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3141 Chestnut Street; 5016 MacAlister Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Questions? Ideas? Suggestions? [honorscollege@drexel.edu](mailto:honorscollege@drexel.edu) | (215) 895-1267

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