Fellowships Virtual Recognition Event
Academic Year 2019-2020
Congratulations to all Smithies who applied for nationally and internationally competitive fellowships, scholarships, and other awards in 2019-2020!
Celebrating Smith’s 2019-2020 Fellowship Cohort with a Reflection on the Benefits of Applying

On the occasion of Commencement Weekend, Smith’s Fellowship Program celebrates all current students, 2020 graduates, and recent alums who applied for competitive fellowships in the current academic year. This year at least 106 Smithies applied for nationally competitive awards. With this slide presentation we wish to recognize the efforts of all who applied both collectively as a cohort and individually through a series of individual profiles collated through surveying our applicants.

Regardless of outcome, there are many benefits of applying for a competitive award. Individual applicant profiles clearly articulate these benefits. This year’s applicants share their advice for future applicants, what motivated them to apply, what they learned and achieved through the process, what they plan to do next year, and conclude by thanking faculty and staff who supported them. In sharing their experiences, this year’s cohort provides valuable lessons for future applicants. We are grateful for their wisdom. Here’s a taste of their collective insights and advice.

What would you say to future applicants?

Don’t be afraid to apply! Start early! You can do this! Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good! Be open to letting your interests decide where you need to go! Don’t be afraid to ask professors for help! You’re still awesome if you don’t win the award!
Celebrating Smith’s 2019-2020 Fellowship Cohort with a Reflection on the Benefits of Applying

*What motivated you to apply?*

Motivations expressed include: connecting with leading thinkers and policy makers; practice for future job, fellowship, and grant applications; wanting to give something back through public service; deepening research skills and/or knowledge; integrating scholarship with public service, a commitment to social justice.

*What did you learn or achieve through applying?*

Personally and professionally, students discovered that applying helped them. Particular ways included: they were able to solidify future plans and professional ambitions; realize their fundamental calling; integrate their past, present and future into a coherent narrative; clarify their goals; present themselves effectively; learn to advocate for themselves and their ideas; identify their strengths and weaknesses; seize opportunities in the present; articulate a pathway; realize how much they’ve grown and provide tools for measuring future growth; deal with rejection and use it as an opportunity to think anew about other opportunities; figure out and articulate what really matters and why; and push themselves beyond their limits.

In a more academic sense, students said that applying presented opportunities to: be confident and proud of their research; strongly defend their ideas; extend their critical thinking skills; learn new strategies for communicating about an idea or project; and recognize the need, as intellectuals, to have a broader impact on society at the same time as they fulfilled a responsibility to make research accessible to the public.
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# Smith College Fellowship Applicants Academic Year 2019-2020
## Listed Alphabetically by Fellowship

### Knight-Hennessy Scholarship
- Astorga, Daisy ‘19
- Chen, Nancy ‘15
- Helou, Elana ‘20
- Irungu, Gracie ‘20
- Li, Jiete ‘15
- Ladadwa, Reem ‘18
- Maharjan, Liza ‘17
- Tir, Selma ‘20
- Rodas Sanchez, Dulce ‘15
- Wettach, Maddie ‘20

### Marshall Scholarship
- Bearden, Nicole AC ‘19
- D’ Souza, Arielle ‘20
- Ha, You Jeen ‘20
- Wettach, Maddie ‘20

### Newman Civic Trust
- McGarry, Katie AC ‘21

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- Catania, Elise ‘20
- Cooper, Olivia ‘20
- Dilanyan, Taleen ‘16
- Freund, Anna ‘20
- George, Anna ‘17
- Giardine, Francesca ‘20
- Higgins, Peyton ‘18
- Jones, Gwendolyn ‘19
- Jones, Mariel ‘20
- Kim, Lauren ‘20
- Kolber, Natalie ‘17
- Litz, Mackenzie ‘20
- Livernois, Emma ‘18
- Magill, Nicki ‘18
- Milcetic, Jane ‘20
- Miller, Becca ‘20
- Mueller, Taryn ‘18
- Pacheco, Marguerite ‘19
- Schwartz, Morgan ‘18
- Vira, Alisha ‘17
- Williams, Kalani ‘18
- Xu, Eve ‘20

### Pickering Fellowship
- Sidibe, Fatou AC ‘20

### Rangel Fellowship
- Sidibe, Fatou AC ‘20

### Rhodes Scholarship
- Ha, You Jeen ‘20

### Schwarzman Scholarship
- Leigh Johnston ‘18

### Soros Fellowship
- Astorga, Daisy ‘19
- Haider, Almas ‘11

### Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF)
- Altman, Clare ‘20
- Benn, Susannah ‘20
- Werblow, Shoshana ‘20

### Truman Scholarship
- Baillargeon, Natalie ‘21
- Bellinson, Cordelia ‘21
- McGarry, Katie AC ‘21
- Oppel, Erin ‘21

### Ubden Fellowship
- Abreu, Ahlenne ‘22
- Lee, Yeji ‘22

### Udall Scholarship
- Baillargeon, Natalie ‘21
- Lewis, Storm ‘21
Profiles of Applicants

Individual applicants have shared the following comments and reflections
It has always been important for me to work hard, believe in myself, and apply to everything I can. I applied to these fellowships, so I could become a first-generation graduate student and ease the financial burden of pursuing my graduate studies.

I will be pursuing a Master's of Arts in Advanced Migration Studies at the University of Copenhagen. The Jean Fine Spahr Fellowship [one of the Smith College alumnae scholarships] will pay for my entire tuition!

I thank Nancy Whittier, Tina Wildhagen, Ginetta Candelario, Jennifer Guglielmo, Michelle Jeffroy, Pamela Thompson, Debra Carney, and Peter Sapira for their support.
I was motivated to apply for the Udall Scholarship as it would allow me to connect with many environmental leaders. I applied to the Truman Scholarship because I am interested in studying environmental/public policy in graduate school; the Truman Scholarship would have helped fund this.

My applications helped me better realize and articulate my life/career goals. I learned that your writing can always get better. And, I learned the importance of sharing yourself and your voice as much as possible in these applications.

I want to thank Bob Newton, Alex Barron, Camille Washington-Ottombre, and Seeta Sistla for their support.
I was interested both in living and conducting research abroad, which is why I applied to work in either the UK or Finland.

The application process helped me learn about marketing myself and helped me think about the possibilities for my post-Smith life. Also, my applications helped me learn how to deal with rejection!

Through applying I learned what opportunities are out there.

I thank Doreen Weinberger, Nalini Easwar, Gary Felder, Courtney Lannert, and Will Williams for their support.

“Be prepared for rejection -- you're still awesome if you don't get accepted!”
Cody Bloomfield ’21
Boren Award to Ukraine

I was so excited to go to Ukraine to learn Russian and hear locals' views on the conflicts I've studied academically in classes. I applied for a Boren Award, and was very glad I did so when I had to leave my study abroad in Ukraine early. I love Ukraine and the people there, and wanted to go back!

I learned how to pull together the diversity of experiences and jobs I've had in the past into a coherent application.

I'm proudest of learning to have the confidence to put myself out there and believe that I have a shot at fellowships. Half the battle was having the courage to put my aspirations into writing.

I'll be at Smith next year, applying for more fellowships and completing a thesis!

I thank Tom Roberts and Alice Hearst for their support.

“Start early, and talk to Margaret often. Applying for fellowships is a hard and iterative process that involves a lot of soul searching. The essays may be fairly short, but the thought that goes into them takes time and mental energy.”
As I plan on going into a career as an astronomer, applying for these awards was not only a way for me to support my education, but also good practice for future applications for fellowships, grants, and proposals.*

Throughout the application process, I learned what different programs are looking for in an applicant, and how I could best portray what I've accomplished to demonstrate these criteria. I am proudest of learning how to succinctly and clearly write a personal statement.

Preparing my fellowship applications helped me think through my career goals and how my other more personal goals fit into that career path. Next year, I will be attending UT Austin for an Astronomy PhD.

I thank Professor James Lowenthal and Professor Suzan Edwards for their support.

*Note: Olivia is also a 2019 Goldwater Scholar.
Applying for the Fulbright grant made me realize how important it is for me to travel and seize opportunities at this phase of my life. I know that being a classroom teacher in Massachusetts is what I want to do long-term, but applying for this grant helped validate that I don't have to embark on that just now. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I can't wait!

I was motivated to apply for the Fulbright ETA to Spain because of how much I loved my time abroad in Spain my junior year with PRESHCO and my passion for teaching. As a Spanish and Education major I felt that teaching English in Spain would combine these two interests and allow me for a life-changing experience traveling abroad. By applying, I learned resilience, grit, and critical language/thought.

I thank Sam Intrator, Reyes Lazaro, and Nicole Walsh for their support.

“I would advise future applicants to give themselves enough time to fully fill out the application. I spent many hours this summer putting everything together and if I had a more demanding internship I don't know if I would have been able to do it. So set aside time to work on the application!”
Applying for a Fulbright gave me the opportunity to reflect on my past three years at Smith and hone that experience into a coherent story. Additionally, applying has given me clarity on my graduate school plans as far as which Ph.D. programs I might apply to down the line.

Fulbright delayed the start date of grants until January 2021 pending the situation with COVID-19, and I thought that I would make the most of this delay by applying for Ph.D. programs in history!

I owe so much to Vera Shevzov, Sergey Glebov, Thomas Roberts, and Evgeny Dengub for their guidance and support of me from my first year at Smith until now, and I’m beyond grateful to them for everything they have done before, during, and after the Fulbright process to support and encourage me.
Applying gave me an opportunity that built off of the work that I had been interested in during my time at Smith, which is research within the fields of sociology and art. It was a great way to continuing thinking about what I am passionate about after graduation.

Through the Fulbright process I have gained application skills which are useful for future applications and life after Smith. I am proudest of learning how to take a research idea I’m passionate about and be able to clearly articulate it through my writing and in a successful grant application.

Next year, I will be pursuing my Masters in Creative Industries Design at National Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan through a fully funded Fulbright grant.

I thank Payal Banerjee, Emily Norton, Paola Ferrario, Andrew Dausch and Don Andrew for their support.
As a government major with a strong passion for East Asian politics and US-Japan relations, this fellowship was my ideal job. I wanted to expand my horizons to learn from scholars about how to collaborate with policy makers and make informed policy recommendations. I was thrilled to bring my background and experiences to the table with highly-esteemed scholars and immerse myself in the international relations field, focusing on Asia.

Not only was I able to further my research on East Asian and American diplomacy, but I was also able to think about what I wanted to achieve in the future.

I thank Dennis Yasutomo, Howard Gold, Jason Bauer-Clapp, and all the professors I had at Smith for their support.

“I would definitely advise using the Smith alumni network and talking to people on it. They might introduce you to a better opportunity or they might connect you with an institution that aligns with your interests. I’m beyond grateful to those who helped me through the application process.”
The NSF GRFP is a prestigious fellowship and funds three years of the PhD. I knew I had a good chance based on my academic achievements and research interests. The WISCIENCE Public Service Fellowship program allows graduate students to integrate their interests in STEM & public service through an internship with a community partner.

The applications reminded me of everything I have already achieved. Also, preparing the personal statements offered a useful chance for self-reflection that allowed me to clarify my career goals to myself. After defending my Masters thesis, I will continue to the UW-Madison Geography PhD program, studying past climate change and ecosystem dynamics.

I thank Jesse Bellemare for his support.
You Jeen Ha ’20
Fulbright Research Award South Korea and Marshall and Rhodes Nominee

I wanted to continue my interdisciplinary research at the intersection of technology, ethics, and public policy outside of the United States after graduating from Smith. I believed these fellowships would allow me to do so by connecting me to a highly innovative, cutting-edge institution that was actively mindful of the societal implications of technological advancement.

I am proudest of learning how my past, present, and future meaningfully intertwine with respect to the various disciplines that I have done work in and my cultural identity as a Korean-American.

I thank Professor Joseph O’Rourke, Professor Jay Garfield, Professor Susan Levin, Professor Jordan Crouser, and Professor Elizabeth Spelman for their support.

"Applying for fellowships, although quite challenging, can be highly educational for one’s personal growth and future career path. Yet, the process also requires much persistence and long-term planning."
Clara Henderson ’20
Fulbright ETA Award Germany

I aim to help young learners engage with the English Language on a visual, physical and personal level, investigating American history, culture and identity. The Germans I have met critically engage with their past and have consequently helped make their country a hub of self-expression and acceptance. Through my engagement with German culture, I hope to give back to a country that has impacted my life so deeply.

I learned the importance of staying organized, and writing with confidence.

I thank Judith Keyler-Meyer, Brigitte Buettner, and Emma Silverman for their support.
Fellowships Individual Applicant Profiles

Vivian Hulsey ’19
Fulbright ETA Award Germany

I was motivated by the opportunity to return to Germany, the prestige and challenge of Fulbright, and by my professor and mentor Judith Keyler-Mayer. The combination of these three factors pushed me to apply and work hard to create a strong application.

The Smith application process for Fulbright helped me realize that self-reflection is the key to creating a strong and honest application. After the long forms and essays of Smith's application, my Fulbright application had a strong base and came together with ease.

This year I will be finishing up my year of service with the Loretto Volunteers in Washington DC at the progressive advocacy organization Faith in Public Life.

I thank Judith Keyler-Mayer, Jutta Gutzeit, and Emily Prabhaker for their support.

“Start early and don’t overthink your drafts, but do make sure to answer all the questions asked.”
I learned was how much support Smith is willing to give throughout the application process, even after students graduate.*

I spent a long time reflecting on my professional goals in order to write the essays, and I spent a lot of time reviewing current events and world history for the interview. The interview was so nerve wracking, but it was a great experience to push myself beyond what I was comfortable with. It also helped to confirm my belief that interviews, no matter the outcome, are always good practice for future opportunities.

I thank Leslie King, Karen Kristof, Becky Shaw, Margaret Lamb, Stacie Hagenbaugh, and Deb Shaver for their support.

*Note: Leigh was a Fulbright ETA in Taiwan in 2018-19 and currently is an NYU Shanghai Writing and Speaking Fellow.
Gwendolyn Jones ’20
NSF GRFP Honorable Mention

I’m motivated by my passion for my research, which focuses on class and representation in historical archaeology.

My application reviewers left me amazing positive comments, making me feel confident in and proud of my research, and excited to begin graduate school. Their reviews taught me what my and my application’s strengths and weaknesses are, as well as advice for future applications to the NSF and other foundations.

Beginning this fall, I am attending The University of Texas at Austin to pursue a doctorate in Anthropology.

I thank Elizabeth A. Klarich, Thalia A. Pandiri, and Yanlong Guo for their support.

“Start early and don’t be afraid to ask your professors for help and advice.”
Bringing your own funding to your PhD program may mean more flexibility in choosing a graduate lab or a bonus to your stipend. Additionally, applying for fellowships gives you the opportunity to be recognized for your accomplishments and future promise as a scientist.

Through applying, I most importantly learned that perfect is the enemy of good. At a certain point, you'll have to hit submit.

Next year, I will be a first-year Bioengineering PhD student at Stanford University.

I thank Robert Merritt and Stylianos Scordilis for their support.

“My biggest piece of advice is to apply! Applying to graduate fellowships before you enter a PhD program (which means applying as a senior undergraduate, for many students), may be a lot of work, but often gives you an "extra chance" in addition to the single chance you’ll get during your PhD (and saves you having to apply during your PhD, when you may have even more responsibilities). Also, reach out to as many people as possible for advice, particularly past winners.”
I think I primarily learned about how important support is—whether it's reaching out when you need guidance, or working with someone else from the onset. Success is rarely reached through one person's effort alone, and this process was an amazing reminder of that.

I'm proud of learning to appreciate my own accomplishments and know how to take pride in myself and what I am capable of achieving. I didn't get my fellowship, but the process boosted my confidence.

Next year, I will be teaching 7th/8th grade Arts and Humanities classes at Parker Charter School as part of the New Teachers Collaborative and taking graduate courses part-time.

I thank Katherine Clemans and Shannon Audley for their support.
I applied to the Udall Scholarship to take stock of what I accomplished during my time at Smith College. I wanted to take the time to assess how my academic and extracurricular activities align with my life goals.

Completing the application allowed me to reflect not only on my previous accomplishments, but also on my future plans. I developed a deeper understanding of the issues I want to tackle moving forward. Through this process, I reaffirmed my interest in pursuing graduate school.

Writing this application helped me identify sustainable food systems as an area of study that I would like to pursue in graduate school. Reflecting on my childhood experiences with urban agriculture and the current food justice work I am doing helped me realize that I would like to work on research and initiatives that work to increase food insecurity in urban neighborhoods.

I thank Camille Washington-Ottombre, Peter de Villiers, and Alexander Barron for their support.
Kelly Lincoln ’20
Khan Liberal Arts Fellow and Critical Language Scholarship Applicant

I wanted to learn more Portuguese in the CLS and I wanted to study Dance and Translation in the Khan Liberal Arts Institute.

You win some, you lose some. I’m glad I tried, even for those I didn’t receive, because at least I don’t have any regrets.

By applying, I learned resilience, grit, and critical language/thought.

I thank Reyes Lazaro and Malcom McNee for their support.

“Give it a go, and give yourself plenty of time!”
I intend to pursue a research career combining developmental biology and physics. Both of the fellowships I applied for* provide funding to continue to pursue research without personal funding limitations. I also applied to practice my application and grant writing skills, both of which I have and will use in my future career. Additionally, winning fellowships makes subsequent applications (such as grad school, post-doc fellowships, etc.) stronger.

I will be starting a PhD at MIT in Computational and Systems Biology in Fall 2020.

I thank Michael Barresi, Will Williams, Doreen Weinberger, Laura Katz, Alexei Koulakov (Cold Spring Harbor Lab.); UMass PhD student Jake Schnabl and Smith Alum Morgan Schwartz 18' for their support.

*Note: Mackenzie is a 2019 Goldwater Scholar.
My decision to come to Smith was in no small part due to its long and storied commitment to public service and social justice. Smith has afforded me many opportunities to pursue these passions, both of which fit well with the Truman and Newman fellowships.

I felt I was a good fit for the Truman because I had come to Smith with fairly fleshed out answers to their application questions. From a personal development perspective, it was really helpful to know that even if what I do isn't *perfect* (I found a typo in my final application after it was submitted!), I am still capable of accomplishing a lot and worthy of an award. To paraphrase Voltaire: perfection is the enemy of the good!

I thank Alice Hearst, Loretta Ross, Erin Pineda, Marge Litchford, Margaret Lamb, and Stacie Hagenbaugh for their support.
Simona Miller ’20
Fulbright Research Award Germany and Gates Cambridge Applicant

While my ultimate postgrad goal is to get a PhD in physics, I wanted to take a year in between undergrad and grad school to [reflect], do meaningful research, and see more of the world. Fellowships like the Fulbright and the Gates Cambridge seemed like ideal ways to make this ideal situation financially feasible.

In the Fellowships application process, I realized the true extent to which researching the fundamental truths of the cosmos through physics and astronomy is my life's calling. Formulating my personal and research statements for the Fellowship applications, as well as for graduate school applications, solidified my academic passions and made me feel confident in my abilities as a researcher. In trying to convince Fellowships that I am a worthy candidate, I also convinced myself.

I thank Courtney Lannert and Travis Norsen for their support.
Sanna Muhammad ’20
Fulbright ETA Award Indonesia

I wanted to have an experience living abroad before starting medical school, particularly in a Muslim country interacting with highschoolers in some capacity, so I applied to become a high school English Teaching Assistant in Indonesia through the Fulbright Program.

I am proudest of learning that I have a real passion to help others in many different ways, not just through healthcare.

I thank Steve Williams, Matilda Cantwell, L’Tanya Richmond, Elen Mons, and Peter Sapira for their support.

“Don’t worry too much about not having the ‘perfect’ resume, just apply and see what happens.”
It is disheartening to be rejected, but rejection is redirection. If you don't win a fellowship, it's important that you don't let that stop you from applying to other opportunities.*

I applied to these awards because I hope to use my fellowship experience(s) as a springboard for my goal of obtaining a Ph.D. in Political Science and working in Education policy.

Next year, if unable to pursue my Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, I will be studying Political Science as part of the UVA Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows Program.

I thank Mlada Bukovansky, May George, Steven Heydemann, Greg White, Nancy Zigler, and Samuel Intrator for their support.

*Note: In 2019 Vivian was nominated for a Truman Scholarship by Smith College. She is a 2019 Newman Civic Fellow and a 2018 Critical Language Scholar.
This fellowship application helped me put into writing why the things I care about are important to me and to the world. It also helped me articulate a path toward reaching my goals.

I learned more about how to make my application look unique in a competitive field and how to do a better job highlighting what makes me a good candidate as opposed to focusing on how the things I had done made me a good candidate. I also learned how to stop being so modest about myself in a competitive application.

Next year at Smith, I plan to finish a Government major and an East Asian Studies minor.

I thank Sara Newland and Greg White for their support.
I was motivated to apply for this because it distinguishes my scholarship as leading my field forward in the future. I want to be known as a scientist with the vision, integrity, and wherewithal to make my field a hub of inclusive excellence.

I learned a lot about trusting myself. I had to defend my ideas when I wrote my research statement and presented it to a principal investigator that I seriously wanted to work for. Talking over the value of my approach to secure her approval required a lot of resolve and I felt amazing when we both got excited about the project. Also, I learned where my limit was for sanitizing my lived experience for an application. It's not an unfamiliar feeling, but navigating that at stakes this high was different. It reminded me that I will never lose myself, my identity, when my actions as an NSF fellow scream it every day.

I thank Professor Stylianos Scordilis and Professor Sarah Moore for their support.

“Be brave and I don’t mean that shallowly. When you spend four hours developing an idea, defend it, because your ideas have value. As for the personal statement - your actions will always speak louder than words on a paper. Reducing yourself to that page limit is rough, but do yourself justice.”
What motivated me to apply was the academic journey of combining different research interests into an overall research project.

Through applying, I learned how to clearly define and structure my interests into a concise research proposal. In the process, I also learned writing and communication skills, networking and asking others for help and advice. I am proudest of potentially seeing my interests come to fruition and manifesting into reality.

I want to thank Professor Louis Wilson in the Africana Studies Department and Professor Anna Mwaba in the Government Department for their support.
Fellowships Individual Applicant Profiles

**Dana Ragoonanan ’20**  
Fulbright Research Semi-Finalist South Africa

I learned more organization and writing skills. I am proudest of my ability to undertake such a process. I learned that I am resilient.

I thank Laura Katz, Peter DeVilliers, and Denise McKahn for their support.

“Start early. It may seem like a huge process but set a goal of writing five sentences a day, even if they are not related. It will feel much less daunting. Secure your affiliation letter early”
Fellowships Individual Applicant Profiles

Amaya Ramsay-Malone ’20
Fulbright Research Award Honduras

My application gave me insight into how I should present myself and my professional abilities in my future career. I wanted to take advantage of all of Smith's resources and the amazing Fulbright program here and apply!

I learned how to make connections with people all over the world, some in person and some only through emails and phone calls, and how to share my passion and vision with them in a way that gets them interested in the work that I want to do. I am proudest of learning the importance of believing in my ability to accomplish great things if I get over a fear of failure.

Next year, I am going to Honduras as a Fulbright Fellow to conduct research on a community-based sustainable agricultural program.

I thank Reid Bertone-Johnson, Javier Puente, Maria Estela-Harretche, Jeffry Ramsey, Michelle Joffroy, and Camille Washington-Ottombre for their support.

“Go for it! Even if it feels like a long shot, it feels better knowing that you seized the opportunity than wondering what could have been.”
Applying helped me cement my desire to pursue higher education; regardless of the outcome of the scholarship, I was able to articulate exactly what I want in the future.

By applying, I learned how to effectively present my story and ambitions to a committee! I am proudest of learning about the editing process and the inner workings of a selections committee.

Next year, I will be preparing for graduate school applications and finishing up my time at Smith!

I thank Margaret Lamb, Frazer Ward, and John E. Moore for their support.

“Take this as an opportunity to learn about yourself and think seriously about the future!”
Charlotte Samuels ’20
Fulbright Research Award Lesotho

I was interested in applying to the Fulbright program because of the incredible opportunities to work closely with communities on issues that connect my interests in anthropology and public health.

Next year, I will be a Fulbright Research Scholar in Lesotho! I will be studying systems of caregiving and support using narrative medicine and CBPR models to help engage with community understandings and caregiver burnout.

By applying, I learned resilience, grit, and critical language/thought.

I thank Colin Hoag, Suzanne Gottschang, Clive Bruzas, Jeffrey Ahlman, Carrie Baker, Jill de Villiers, Mary Harrington, Samuel Ng, and Thula Majubana for their support.

“Never stop and never give up. You will get there. If I can do it, so can you. Utilize your resources and remember nothing defines you from your past. You can keep putting your best foot forward. Be flexible and adaptable. Listen to advice from your mentors/consultants.”
As a second year graduate student working on a brand new project, the application gave me a valuable opportunity to develop strategies for communicating about the project. I leveraged my previous experience as a Marshall and Rhodes finalist* to craft a personal statement that told a compelling story while emphasizing my academic accomplishments.

The NSF GRF carries significant prestige due to its specific focus on research. The award would give me independence from university funding and serve as a stepping stone for future funding applications.

The NSF application helped me prepare for qualifying exams that are rapidly approaching. Next year, I will be continuing a PhD in biology at Caltech.

I thank Stacie Hagenbaugh, Margaret Lamb, Michael Barresi, Rob Dorit, & Laura Katz for their support.

*Note: Morgan was a finalist for the 2018 Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships and is a 2017 Goldwater Scholar.
I learned that the application process does not prepare you for one fellowship. The skills you learned will set you up for any interviews you'll have to prepare for in your career.

The skills I learned during the fellowship application process prepared me for the many interviews I had with Oracle. Next year, I will continue working for Oracle.

I thank Margaret Lamb, Professors Anna Mwaba, John Weinert, May George, Alice and Hearst for their support.

“Follow the guidance from the fellowship team. Be confident and don’t be nervous during the interview. You were called to interview for a reason. Remind the panel of those reasons.”
Jemma Stephenson ’20
Fulbright ETA Award Azerbaijan

I applied for the chance to see parts of the world that I may not have otherwise. I've always been curious about people, and I felt like the Fulbright would have let me meet people with lives and stories I would not have met without traveling abroad.

In the application process, I became even more committed to the idea of seeing the world and speaking with as many people as I could. By the end of the application, I knew that, even if I did not win, I wanted to make travel a priority.

I want to thank Douglas Patey, Christen Mucher, and Naomi Miller for their support.

“Start early.”
I had an existing research project idea, which was originally going to be my thesis. When the project no longer seemed feasible as a thesis, I decided to apply for the Fulbright to carry out the research project instead.

I learned a lot about how to explain my project to laymen, who were not familiar with the type of research. I’m proud of learning how to apply for a grant and thankful for the practice I got from applying to the Fulbright. It helped me plan for my future and my career in the field.

I thank Jill de Villiers, Judith Keyler-Mayer, and John Kingston (UMass) for their support.

“Don't be afraid to ask professors for help - even if their academic interests are different from yours they can probably help connect you to other academics.”
The application for the Goldwater Scholarship gave me the opportunity to reflect on my accomplishments and my growth as a scientist. It also served as a reminder of the potential for further growth as I continue to research and find innovative answers to my inquiries.

I applied for the Goldwater Scholarship because I believed it would help me further my research career. I intend to obtain a doctoral degree in organic chemistry and ultimately conduct research at a national laboratory to synthesize drugs for incurable diseases and discover novel chemical reactions.

I am proudest of the numerous organic synthesis skills I have developed over the past three years from conducting research in the Shealab.

I want to thank Kevin Shea and Margaret Lamb for their support.
I wanted to push myself. I had applied for other fellowships in the past, like the Truman,* and I enjoyed that application process. Since I was also applying for the Stanford Law School, I thought it would be a good idea to aim high.

I clarified my goals. Working on these applications forced me to think hard about what I wanted out of life, what I wanted to accomplish, and what I wanted my career to look like.

It prepared me for a legal career. Filling out these applications helped me finalize the decision to attend law school and pursue a career in public service. I will be attending Harvard Law School in the fall.

I thank Margaret Lamb, Randy Bartlett, Simon Halliday, and Joshua Birk for their support.

*Note: Maddie was a 2019 Smith College nominee for the Truman Scholarship.
Anna Wysocki ’20
Fulbright ETA Award Czech Republic and Jandon Fellowship

I first learned about the Fulbright award when my lacrosse captain received the scholarship back in 2017. She was a senior and I was a first year, and I could see the excitement and pride in her eyes when she received her award notification. When I studied abroad in the Czech Republic a year and a half later, I volunteered to teach English to Czech middle school students, and soon set my heart and lofty goals on applying for a Fulbright scholarship.

Next year, in the beginning of January 20201, I will begin my Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in a gardening and technical school in the town of Litomyśl, Czech Republic.

I thank Katie Moore, Velma García, Renata Pienkawa, Greg White, Carol Berner, Reid Bertone-Johnson, Anna Mwaba, Lucy Mule, and Jiri Rejzek (language evaluator) for their support.

“Although the application process is very daunting, if this is something that you are passionate about, and you are willing to make the conscious effort to make it a priority, it all becomes worth it.”
Often when doing research, we focus mainly on the specific problem and spend little time thinking about the impact of our work. The broader impact requirement of NSF GRF makes me realize that a good research project should not only be intellectually interesting but also have the potential to make an impact on the broader society, and as an intellectual, I shoulder the responsibility to bring knowledge to more people, especially those that are underrepresented in science.

Next year, I will be attending Princeton University for the Chemistry Ph.D. program.

I thank Prof. Kevin M. Shea (Smith College), Prof. Eric N. Jacobsen (Harvard University), Prof. Heather J. Kulik (MIT), and Prof. Matthew B. Francis (UC Berkeley) for their support.
Thank you to the members of the Smith College community who provided advice, mentoring, and support to fellowships applicants in 2019-2020!
The Smith College Fellowship Program thanks the following faculty and staff for their efforts in support of our applicants in Academic Year 2019-2020

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* Student Fellowships Nomination and Advisory Committee (Appointed)
** Science Center Distinguished Fellows and Scholarships Committee
We end this presentation with a special thank you to Susan Etheredge ’77, Dean of the College and Vice President for Campus Life, and Borjana Mikic, Associate Dean for Integrative Learning, who encouraged the celebration of all fellowship applicants in Academic Year 2020. All of us who encourage and advise fellowship applicants appreciate their support and advocacy on behalf of students and alums.
Thank you.