THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Salutes the 2013 - 2014
GRADUATE FELLOWS

Honoring Excellence in Academic Achievement
Welcome!

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the University of Oklahoma’s Graduate Fellows. We’re pleased to present an update to the academic progress of our Fellows whose multi-year awards support them through their graduate degree programs. The university has 114 Fellows this academic year, including 34 new Fellows. In this report, you will find listed our continuing Fellows; the featured bios of new Fellows who began their programs during the 2013-2014 academic year; and those who graduated during the 2012-2013 academic year.

The fellowships are funded through contributions from private donors, sponsoring corporations, the federal government, the OU Foundation, and the various OU colleges and departments represented in the report. As several Fellows note, these awards have made, and will continue to make, a significant contribution in our ability to recruit and retain some of the best graduate scholars in the country. Speaking on behalf of all the academic departments, I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support of our graduate programs.

Dr. T.H. Lee Williams
Dean of the Graduate College
The Fellowships

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ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP

In 1998, President David L. Boren established the University of Oklahoma Alumni Graduate Fellowship Program. This multi-year award is designed to recruit nationally competitive students into the doctoral programs of participating University of Oklahoma departments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francisco Acosta Espinosa</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Bentley</td>
<td>Journalism and Mass Communication</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Billington</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Blankenship</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Bodine</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2009-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Brandom</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Burt</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2012-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodney Collins</td>
<td>Civil Engineering and Environmental Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon Crawford</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Dulin</td>
<td>Geology and Geophysics</td>
<td>2010-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Edwards</td>
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<td>2011-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Esmaili</td>
<td>Civil Engineering and Environmental Science</td>
<td>2010-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Gaida</td>
<td>History of Science</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Gasperoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen German</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<td>Aaron Gleberman</td>
<td>Marketing and Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>2010-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Goeller</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daryn Hardwick</td>
<td>Geography and Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Hartnett</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2012-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Helms</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2011-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jana Houser</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yongzuo Li</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2009-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tye Love</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Margolis</td>
<td>History of Science</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Martin</td>
<td>Geography and Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
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<td>Madeline Martin-Seaver</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>2012-2017</td>
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<td>Kimberly Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Niemeyer</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Olsen</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Pajan</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2010-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Reser</td>
<td>History of Science</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Anne Rodeen</td>
<td>Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Rutledge</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>2010-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Schenkman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall Schmidt</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jie Shao</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Candace Smith</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>2010-2016</td>
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<td>Phillip Stepanian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Stepanian</td>
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<td>2010-2015</td>
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<td>Michael Tilles</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Wilgruber</td>
<td>Geography and Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zongfei Yang</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>2010-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber Young</td>
<td>Management Information Systems</td>
<td>2011-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Zepeda</td>
<td>History of Science</td>
<td>GRADUATED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latifa Zoulagh</td>
<td>Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BALLET RSUS archive fellowship

The Ballets Russes Archive Fellowship was created to provide an assistant for the cataloging and conservation of the collection of artifacts from the famous Ballets Russes company. The archive was established in 2007. This fellowship was funded anonymously by patrons of the School of Dance in 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Codolata</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MARK ALLEN EVERETT FELLOWSHIP IN STRING PERFORMANCE

The Mark Allen Everett Graduate Fellowship in String Performance Fund, established at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation by friends and former colleagues of Dr. Everett to honor his interest in promoting the training of musicians and supporting musical performance, shall be awarded to a graduate student in string performance at the University of Oklahoma School of Music who has reached the highest level of performance based upon his or her audition. The award shall be made to only one student per year, but the award may be renewed as long as the student is making adequate progress toward the degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yajing Zhang</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
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</table>
At the request of President David L. Boren, the University of Oklahoma Foundation provides funds each year to support the Graduate Foundation Fellowship program. This multi-year fellowship is designed to recruit nationally competitive graduate students into participating departments.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Anglin</td>
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<td>2013-2017</td>
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<td>Kiersten Baughman</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2009-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Black</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Black</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bobbitt</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan Brockbank</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Si Chen</td>
<td>Marketing and Supply Chain Management</td>
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<td>Olivia Cooper</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2009-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffry Cox</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marisa Crisostomo</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2012-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Diemart</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Dorton</td>
<td>Counseling Psychology</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Epley</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>2009-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Grundy</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2009-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Hardy</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandi Hilton-Hagemann</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>GRADUATED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Duration</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kateryna Holland</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Holly</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Klotz</td>
<td>Management and Entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Lake</td>
<td>Advanced Radar Research Center</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiley Molinari</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erik Moore</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<td>Juliet Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alisha Ness</td>
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<td>Joseph Otto</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendan Rork</td>
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<td>2013-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Terrazas-Carrillo</td>
<td>Counseling Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phuoc (Jimmy) Tran</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2012-2017</td>
</tr>
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</table>
FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP

The Fulbright Fellowship Program provides opportunities for educational interactions between the United States and over 140 countries. Through these interactions, international understanding and communication is achieved. Since 1946, this public diplomacy program has brought over 225,000 of the world’s brightest students to U.S. campuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Dolomon</td>
<td>Microbiology and Plant Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reinaldo Cortes Quantip</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adriana Gomez Prada</td>
<td>Geology and Geophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diana Hoyos Valdes</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tham Thi Nguyen</td>
<td>Journalism and Mass Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egawati Panjei</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Siprikova</td>
<td>Regional and City Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naeem Ul Hussain</td>
<td>Petroleum and Geological Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damian Villalba</td>
<td>Geology and Geophysics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Yugay</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GAANN FELLOWSHIP

The Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship Program provides fellowships to assist graduate students with excellent academic records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their field of study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Clay</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Curry</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Hjalmarson</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Lucas</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HOVING FELLOWSHIP

The Kenneth L. Hoving Graduate Fellowship was established by an anonymous gift to honor Dr. Kenneth L. Hoving, who served as Dean of the Graduate College from 1980 to 1990. The fellowship supports graduate students studying history, music, mathematics, and areas related to the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teshome Lemma</td>
<td>The WaTER CENTER</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Madden</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Wagner</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Célia Wollenberg</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>GRADUATED</td>
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</table>
HUDSON FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship was established in 2000 through a generous gift to the History Department from Mr. Cliff Hudson, chief executive officer of Sonic Corporation. This four-year fellowship is available to outstanding students entering the University of Oklahoma doctoral program in history.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeffry Cox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandi Hilton-Hagemann</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Holly</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<td>Erik Moore</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Otto</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BOB HUGHES CENTENNIAL FELLOWSHIP

The Bob Hughes Centennial Fellowship was given to the College of Engineering by Robert W. and Gail Hughes of Austin, Texas. Mr. Hughes received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1958 and then completed the Harvard MBA program in 1962. He maintains a close relationship with the University of Oklahoma, giving graciously of his time and resources. Mr. Hughes is also a member of the College of Engineering Distinguished Graduates Society.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiba Baroud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Briggs</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zachary Dunn</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Heck</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
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<td>Christopher Lewis</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Mintmire</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katrin Passack</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Wulfers</td>
<td>GRADUATED</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE ROBERT S. & GRAYCE B. KERR
FAMILY FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Through the generosity of the Robert S. & Grayce B. Kerr Foundation, an annual fellowship is awarded to a deserving graduate student specializing in the art of the American West. The Kerr fellow typically works on a variety of projects, including research, publications, and museum exhibitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammi Hanawalt</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
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</table>
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT FELLOWSHIP

The Mathematics Department Fellowship is a multi-year award funded by a bequest to the Department of Mathematics. It is used to recruit outstanding students to the department’s doctoral program. The bequest was made by Richard Resco, a former member of the faculty of the Department of Mathematics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
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<th>Duration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ignat Soroko</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
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</table>
MC NAIR FELLOWSHIP

The Ronald E. McNair program prepares promising undergraduate students for the challenging academic rigor of graduate study. The purpose of this fellowship is to encourage undergraduate McNair students who have successfully completed an undergraduate degree to attend graduate school at the University of Oklahoma.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Cardwell</td>
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<td>Andrew Harris</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2011-2015</td>
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<td>Dallas Morrison</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>2012-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Nguyen</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
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<td>Juan Nunez</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtesia Plunkett</td>
<td>Counseling Psychology</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brett Roberts</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royline Williams-Fontenelle</td>
<td>History of Science</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
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</table>
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Each year the National Science Foundation offers three-year fellowships to outstanding graduate students across the United States. Recipients of this national competition are pursuing graduate study in mathematics; engineering; physical, biological, behavioral, and social sciences; history of science; philosophy of science; and science education.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
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<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Erlingis</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
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<td>David Gagne</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Hardy</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson Helms</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Hodges</td>
<td>Civil Engineering and Environmental Science</td>
<td>2011-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Kroeger</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryam Sabeghi</td>
<td>Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MARILYN BAILEY OGILVIE ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP

A seminal authority and prolific contributor to many fields in the history of science, especially in the examination of women in science, Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie has also been a superlative teacher and a dedicated servant to the profession, the History of Science program and the University of Oklahoma. To recognize her outstanding achievements, the University, with the assistance of program alumni and friends, has endowed the Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie Alumni Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship provides financial support to exceptional graduate students in the History of Science program and support for their teaching and research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Gaida</td>
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</table>
The Opera Fellowship was established in 2007 through a gift of David C. Steed for the Heritage Scholarship Fund. The fellowship supports graduate students studying voice and opera.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Eversole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ekaterina Kotcherguina</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodney Westbrook</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Westley</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
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</table>
VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

A special congressional initiative, the Vietnam Education Foundation brings Vietnam and the U.S. closer through educational exchanges in science and technology. The University of Oklahoma has been designated a member of the Vietnam Education Alliance, the consortium of leading U.S. universities that promote the mission of the VEF. These multi-year awards support Vietnam’s highest-achieving students in doctoral programs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Huy Pham</td>
<td>Industrial and Systems Engineering</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
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WETHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

This graduate fellowship was established through a generous gift from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Wethington. The fellowship is available to graduate students studying business, engineering, history, mathematics, or natural science. Preference is given to those students from Woods, Alfalfa, Grant or Garfield counties in Oklahoma; however, students from other areas may receive the fellowship if no other eligible students meet the residency requirement.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Barnard</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2011-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandria Gough</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Tweedy</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2012-2016</td>
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THE BRIDGE TO THE DOCTORATE PROGRAM

The National Science Foundation Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) through the Division of Human Resources Development (HRD) sponsors the Bridge to the Doctorate program as a competitive supplemental activity to the undergraduate Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program. The Bridge to the Doctorate Program is designed to broaden participation through the attraction of underrepresented minority students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In addition, this activity seeks to remove minority students’ hesitancy about entering graduate school and the fear of creating additional financial indebtedness associated with initial graduate education.

CHRISTINA BRUXVOORT

BS Institution: University of Central Oklahoma-Oklahoma City
Major: Biochemistry at OUHSC
Career Goals: I am interested in biomedical research. Realizing my chances of finding a cure to my own medical anomaly are unlikely, I hope to offer assistance to someone on the verge of their own medical breakthrough.

DANIEL DIXON

BS Institution: Oklahoma State University-Stillwater
Major: Chemical Engineering
Career Goals: I want to explore waste management and efficiency improvement. I want to minimize the amount of waste produced so that the gains of energy aren’t overshadowed by cleanup.
### Jared Giem
BS Institution: East Central University-Edmond  
Major: Medical Physics at OUHSC  
Career Goals: I want to contribute to the field of medical physics; more specifically, I would like to do research within the area of proton therapy.

### Josh Hardisty
BS Institution: The University of Oklahoma-Norman  
Major: Geophysics  
Career Goals: My career aspiration is to be a teacher. I hope to develop a panoramic view of the engineering problems so that I can accurately teach and inspire students to solve them.

### Luis Lazu
BS Institution: Rutgers University-Newark, NJ  
Major: Applied Mathematics  
Career Goals: My main career goal is to become a college professor at a well-known four-year university. I would also like to conduct research in applied mathematics.

### Kayla Love
BS Institution: Langston University-Langston, OK  
Major: Biochemistry  
Career Goals: I want to work in academia so I can use my experiences to ensure others have opportunities.
ALEX MORENO

BS Institution: The University of Oklahoma-Norman
Major: Electrical Engineering
Career Goals: I can see myself becoming a professor and performing research. I really enjoy antennas and microwave engineering, and I want to continue on with them.

ABIGAIL NTREH

BS Institution: Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Weatherford, OK
Major: Biochemistry
Career Goals: I want to collaborate with researchers and physicians, and work as a biochemist with organizations educating about antimicrobial resistance.

ALLISON QUIROGA

BS Institution: University of Oklahoma-Norman
Major: Civil Engineering
Career Goals: I would like to have a professorship position, and be involved with initiatives to bring real world engineering issues into science classrooms in middle and high schools in an effort to develop knowledge and enthusiasm for math, science, and engineering.

CORTES WILLIAMS

BS Institution: The University of Oklahoma-Norman
Major: Bioengineering
Career Goals: I am interested in research of bone and tendon tissue engineering as well as tissue engineering of other organs, biosensors, and prosthetics.
Mr. Francisco Acosta joined the graduate program in the Department of Biology in Fall 2013. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico, where he received cum laude honors for his thesis on clinical tests for the influenza virus. Upon graduation, he worked in Mexico’s federal government, where he participated in numerous health programs and campaigns, and served on the organizing committee for two national medical congresses. Mr. Acosta then returned to academia to pursue a Master of Science degree in marine sciences at Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah University of Science and Technology. There, he worked with Dr. Ulrich Stingl and conducted some of the first molecular studies on protistan diversity in the Red Sea. His planned focus for PhD research centers on microbial communities in rivers and lakes, especially in relation to the appearance and impact of toxic algae blooms.

“I am very thankful to all donors for the Alumni Fellowship. It is through your support that I’m able to continue my educational and scientific endeavors at the University of Oklahoma.”

— Francisco Acosta Espinosa
Mr. Aaron Anglin joined the Division of Management and Entrepreneurship of the Michael F. Price College of Business in Fall 2013. He completed a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration in 2004 and a Master of Entrepreneurship in 2006, both from Western Carolina University. As an undergraduate, Mr. Anglin received the department’s Entrepreneurial Scholar Award his senior year. After earning his master’s degree, he moved to Raleigh, North Carolina where he was a financial planner for five years, serving as a partner in a small firm during the last two. He then returned to academia and completed a Master of Science degree in economics at North Carolina State University in Spring 2013. Mr. Anglin’s PhD research focuses on the impact of small business optimism on entrepreneurial activity.

“I am extremely grateful for being awarded the Graduate Foundation Fellowship. It will go a long way in supporting my academic goals over the next four years.” – Aaron Anglin
Dr. Josh Bentley earned a Bachelor of Science degree in broadcasting from John Brown University and a Master of Science degree in media management from Oklahoma State University. He then worked in the radio industry for more than 10 years before entering graduate school at the University of Oklahoma, where his PhD research focused on public relations. Specifically, his research examined fundraising practices at noncommercial radio and television stations, as well as the role of public apologies in crisis communication. Dr. Bentley presented his research at numerous conferences and published articles in the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* as well as *Teaching Journalism and Mass Communication*. Dr. Bentley accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico where he teaches public relations and advertising courses.

“My fellowship allowed me to work with some of the best public relations scholars in the world, and to grow as a teacher and a researcher. I am so grateful for this opportunity!” – Joshua Bentley
Ms. Jessica Black joined the PhD program in the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. She received her bachelor’s degree in foreign service from Georgetown University and her master’s degree in psychology from Humboldt State University in May 2012. She and her master’s thesis advisor, Dr. William Reynolds, continue to work on the development of psychometric instruments designed to measure moral cognition. Ms. Black’s main interest is moral psychology. She is working with Dr. Jennifer Barnes, whose work on the relationship of fictional environments with the real world presents a unique opportunity to study changing morality in alternate realities.

"I am very grateful for the support provided by the Graduate Fellowship Foundation. Such funding makes it possible for people like me to be productive researchers and active members of the academic community." – Jessica Black
DEREK BLANKENSHIP

ALUMNI FELLOW
WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
ADVISOR: DR. KARL SIEVERS

Mr. Derek Blankenship received his bachelor’s degree in trumpet performance from Appalachian State University and his master’s degree in music performance from the University of South Florida. While attending the University of South Florida, he was the graduate teaching assistant for Dr. Jay Coble and the trumpet studio. Mr. Blankenship has twice been selected as a semifinalist in the graduate division of the National Trumpet Competition. His performing experience includes Chuck Owen’s “Jazz Surge;” The Macedonian Radio Orchestra (Skopje, Macedonia); The Florida Wind Band; The Kingsport Symphony; The Johnson City Symphony; The Mid-American Trumpet Ensemble; and several recording projects throughout the United States and Europe. Mr. Blankenship holds memberships in the International Trumpet Guild, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity.

“Thank you for bestowing me with this honor. With this fellowship, I am able to focus on furthering my education and abilities as a performer to become a leader in my field. Thank you.” – Derek Blankenship
Mr. Thomas Bobbitt received Dean’s List honors and graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas in Spring 2013. He began his doctoral studies in the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. During his final year of undergraduate studies, Mr. Bobbitt’s honors thesis focused on “ironic effects.” Simply defined, an ironic effect is an increased probability of thinking a particular thought, which occurs when that thought is unwanted and one is cognitively depleted. He presented his research at a Student Works Symposium and to an Honors Committee. At OU, Mr. Bobbitt is working under Dr. Kimball, whose research focuses on memory—in particular, situations that cause false memories (i.e. remembering something that did not actually occur) and ways to improve memory. Mr. Bobbitt also holds a teaching assistantship in the Department of Psychology.

“I would like to personally thank the Department of Psychology for granting me a Graduate Fellowship, for it will immensely add to my opportunities for growth as a researcher and specialist in memory.”

— Thomas Bobbitt
Mr. Eli Brandom received his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from California State University, Fullerton. He joined the PhD program in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. Mr. Brandom intends to focus his research in the areas of epistemology and ethics, with a focus on ways in which these two fields intersect. Specific topics that he will pursue include the nature of intellectual virtue and the value of knowledge and understanding. During his studies, Mr. Brandom will also work as a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Philosophy.

“I am extremely grateful to receive a Graduate Fellowship to help further my research in epistemology and ethics toward the goal of producing a high quality dissertation.” — Eli Brandom
Ms. Ashley Cardwell joined the Department of Mathematics as a master’s student and a graduate teaching assistant in Fall 2013. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from East Central University. Ms. Cardwell graduated as a member of Pi Mu Epsilon, Alpha Chi, ECU’s Honors program, the McNair Scholars program, and as a NASA Fellow. She completed her undergraduate honors thesis entitled “The Mathematical Modeling of Golf,” which she presented at the 2013 National Alpha Chi Convention.

“I want to complete my PhD in mathematics and teach at the undergraduate level. I am so thankful for this fellowship because it is one more thing that helps get me to where I want to be.” — Ashley Cardwell
Ms. Si Chen joined the University of Oklahoma’s Division of Marketing and Supply Chain Management as a doctoral student and a graduate teaching assistant in Fall 2013. She received her bachelor's degree in economics from Renmin University of China (Beijing, China) in 2005, and master's degrees in economics and in supply chains and operations management from State University of New York at Buffalo in 2008 and 2010, respectively. Before coming to OU, Ms. Chen worked as senior account analyst in an investment company in upstate New York. She also has experience as a research analyst in China's top consulting company which specializes in non-ferrous metal industry. Her research interest lies in the area of franchising and distribution channels.

“Without the fellowship, I would not be able to expand my research interest and bring wonderful thoughts into reality. I am deeply grateful for how this award can make a change.” – Si Chen
Mr. Reinaldo Jose Cortes Quantip joined the PhD program in the Department of Communication at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in social communication from the University of Los Andes in San Cristobal, Tachira State, Venezuela in 1996. In 2002, he received a Master of Science degree in political science from the University of Los Andes, Merida State, Venezuela and in 2012, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the University of Los Andes in San Cristobal, Tachira State. In 2004, Mr. Cortes proposed the elective subject Democratic Culture and Human Rights to the Social Communication undergraduate program in order to provide a space for discussion analysis and research in conflicts and democratic issues from the perspective of journalism and communication. Mr. Cortes has been interested in the research field of conflict and political rhetoric in South America and more recently in education strategies to reinforce the values of tolerance and democracy.

“Teaching is my greatest passion and this gift of learning by Fulbright and the University of Oklahoma is a commitment to give the best of me for my students and university once back to my country.”

– Reinaldo Cortes Quantip
Mr. Jeffry Cox began his PhD studies in the Department of History at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Truman State University and a Master of Arts degree in history from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While at SIUE, Mr. Cox was a teaching assistant primarily in world history courses. He was awarded a Research Grants for Graduate Students award, which he used to conduct original research at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. Mr. Cox presented his research at conferences, and published several book reviews and an article. As a doctoral student, he is focusing on Latin American history, especially Latin American relations with the United States. He is interested in the role of public opinion in foreign policy—how U.S. policies affected the image of the U.S. in Latin America.

“Receiving the Hudson Fellowship is a great honor, and a great opportunity. This will help me to remain focused on completing my program quickly, and getting started on my career in the academic community.”
—Jeffry Cox
Mr. Anthony Eversole received his Master of Music degree in voice at the University of Oklahoma in May 2013. He is a graduate of Utah State University with a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance and choral music education. As an undergraduate student, Mr. Eversole performed nine leading operatic baritone roles in full. As a master’s student, Mr. Eversole sang three main stage roles for the OU Opera Theatre. These included the title role in Verdi’s *Falstaff*; Thoas in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*; and Seneca in Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*. He also prepared the role of Leporello in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, but was unable to perform due to a bout with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Mr. Eversole will continue his education and the refinement of his craft at the University of Maryland at College Park as a doctoral candidate and a member of the nationally acclaimed Maryland Opera Studio.

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the appointment of this generous fellowship. The skills and opportunities gained at the University of Oklahoma have helped to increase my musical knowledge and refine my craft. I continue with the goal of achieving greater excellence of artistic expression in the performance of exceptional vocal music and advocate for opera and the vocal arts.”

— Anthony Eversole
Ms. Helen German is an incoming PhD student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She received a degree in biochemistry at Florida Institute of Technology. Through four years of active research, she developed an interest in physical chemistry which she intends to further at the University of Oklahoma. As a result of her time spent performing research, she has one publication and one in the submission process for which she presented the results at a national conference. Ms. German was two-time president of FIT’s American Chemical Society student chapter, and is passionate about science and sharing the desire to learn with others. As a teaching assistant for the Physical Chemistry Lab, she learned valuable teaching skills in her area of academic pursuit. Ms. German was honored to receive FIT’s Chemistry Department’s Outstanding Senior of the Year Award in 2011, and was a semifinalist for the Frank and Sara McKnight Prize in Undergraduate Biophysics or Computational Biology.

“I am extremely grateful for the generosity of this fellowship which will support me in my future research endeavors at The University of Oklahoma. I intend to further my knowledge and skill sets within science and appreciate the support that will allow me.” — Helen German
Ms. Diana L. Goeller graduated magnacum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in earth and planetary science, a second major in mathematics, and a minor in mechanical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis in May 2013. She entered the PhD program in the School of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. As an undergraduate, Ms. Goeller worked with Dr. V. Slava Solomatov to complete an honors thesis using a numerical model to investigate localized and widespread convection in the Venusian crust. In 2012, under a National Science Foundation (NSF) research grant at the University of Connecticut, she contributed to a paper still in progress on the effect of pressure and fuel mixture on the flame speed of combustion events. As a doctoral student at OU, Ms. Goeller is as a research assistant with Drs. David Parsons and Howard Bluestein, investigating nocturnal convection and the enigmatic nighttime precipitation maximum over much of the United States’ Great Plains using Doppler Lidar and numerical modeling.

“I am honored to receive this fellowship and grateful for the support it provides, especially in these uncertain times. It will broaden the opportunities I am able to pursue in my graduate study.”

– Diana Goeller
Dr. Brandi Hilton-Hagemann received a bachelor’s degree in history and communication studies from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska in 2006, and a master’s degree in history from the University of Wyoming in 2008. In Fall 2008, she came to the University of Oklahoma as a doctoral student in the Department of History. Dr. Hilton-Hagemann’s dissertation focused on issues of tribal sovereignty and nationalism at the turn of the twentieth century. Her research focused on the cyclical nature of nation building exhibited by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho on the Wind River Indian Reservation. She received several grants, including the Anne Hodges and Wayne Morgan Fellowship; the American Philosophical Society-Phillips Fund for Native American Research; the Robberson Research and Creative Endeavors Grant; and the National Phi Alpha Theta Doctoral Scholarship. Dr. Hilton-Hagemann accepted a position at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, where she has begun work as an Assistant Professor of History.

“Being a fellow at OU is a rewarding and academically challenging experience. By allowing me to interact with experts in my field, this fellowship has helped me to receive the best education possible at a top-notch university!” – Brandi Hilton-Hagemann
Ms. Emily Hjalmarson joined the PhD program in the Department of Biology at the University of Oklahoma in fall 2013. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Lawrence University, a small liberal arts school in Wisconsin. Ms. Hjalmarson has a broad ecology field research background, ranging from coral reef transects in Grand Cayman to vole trapping in Nova Scotia. Her interest in bird watching and experience in avian rehabilitation have led to her academic focus on avian ecology and the effects human-induced habitat changes have on dynamics of bird populations and behavior. Her recent studies of local bird communities in Wisconsin have highlighted the roles of citizen involvement and public education in the success of conservation efforts. Ms. Hjalmarson plans to conduct a thesis project on the effects of human modification of Lesser Prairie-Chicken (Tympanuchus pallidicinctus) habitat in hopes of informing management decisions to improve interactions between people and wildlife.

“As a GAANN fellow, I am eager and thankful for the opportunity to begin a new chapter of my career in avian ecology as part of the Biology Department’s research community at OU.” – Emily Hjalmarson
Dr. Kateryna Holland received her doctoral degree in finance in May 2013. Her research examined government involvement and also evaluated energy related topics. In her research, Dr. Holland asked: does government involvement influence the firm’s cost of debt; does governance influence shareholder wealth for firms in which it purchases equity stakes; and does trading in crude oil futures influence the spot price via storage arbitrage? In a conjoint project with her co-authors, Dr. Holland focused on establishing a link between the financial crude oil futures and physical spot prices via inventory and found support for this idea. In another project, she showed that investments from governments that are more (less) likely to politically interfere with firms hurt (benefit) shareholder wealth. And in another conjoint project with her co-authors, she looked at how government ownership influences the cost of debt for firms and found that government ownership is associated with a higher cost of debt, except for during the financial crisis time. Dr. Holland accepted an Assistant Professor of Finance position at Purdue University.

“I am very happy to receive the OU Fellowship award. I picked OU for my graduate studies because of the outstanding faculty, interesting research, and great weekly seminars.” – Kateryna Holland
JANA HOUSER

ALUMNI FELLOW

COLLEGE OF ATMOSPHERIC AND GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF METEOROLOGY
ADVISOR: DR. HOWARD BLUESTEIN

Dr. Jana Houser graduated with distinction, receiving her bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 2004, and her master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma in 2008 under the mentorship of Dr. Howard Bluestein. She received her PhD in the Summer of 2013 after completing her dissertation titled “Observations of Supercell Tornado Evolution using a Mobile, Rapid-Scan, Polarimetric Radar,” which uses high temporal and spatial resolution Doppler radar data to examine the rapid evolution of tornadoes during formation, intensification, and demise. In 2013, Dr. Houser was awarded the Tommy C. Craighead Award for Best Paper in Radar Meteorology for her article “Polarimetric Doppler Radar Observations of Kelvin-Helmholtz Waves during a Winter Storm,” published in the Journal of Atmospheric Sciences. Dr. Houser accepted a faculty position in the Department of Geography at Ohio University, where she is teaching synoptic and mesoscale meteorology.

“I am indebted to the University, the School of Meteorology, my adviser, and the Alumni Fellowship for making my educational experience as wonderful and successful as it has been. I will always look back on OU with the fondest of memories.” — Jana Houser
NAEEM UL HUSSAIN

FULBRIGHT FELLOW

COLLEGE OF EARTH AND ENERGY
MEWBORNE SCHOOL OF PETROLEUM
AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
ADVISOR: DR. DEEPAK DEVEgowda

Mr. Naeem Ul Hussain joined the School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering master’s program in Fall 2013. He received his undergraduate degree in petroleum & natural gas engineering from Mehran University of Engineering & Technology in Jamshoro, Pakistan, where he was awarded several honors and scholarships. At the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Hussain is working with Drs. Faruk Civan and Deepak Devegowda in their research on the shale gas simulator consortium. The objective of the consortium is to provide to the exploration and production industry commercial simulators for shale gas reservoirs. This research will address the complexities regarding the flow of oil or gas in low permeability reservoirs like shale and tight gas.
Dr. Anthony Klotz received his bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University in 2001. He subsequently held managerial roles with General Mills, and in 2006, became a partner in a collision repair business in Omaha, Nebraska. While in Omaha, Dr. Klotz also earned his MBA from Creighton University. In 2009, he began work on his doctorate in organizational behavior at the University of Oklahoma. He co-authored articles in the *Academy of Management Review*, the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, and the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*. In 2011, Dr. Klotz was awarded the Price College of Business Graduate Research Excellence Award, and in 2012, he won the PhD Student Teaching Excellence Award. In March 2013, Dr. Klotz successfully defended his dissertation, which explored the ways in which employees resign from their jobs. He accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Oregon State University, which he began in Fall 2013.

“I will always attribute a portion of my success at OU to the University of Oklahoma Foundation. I am truly grateful for the support the Foundation has provided me over these past four years.” — *Anthony Klotz*
Ms. Ekaterina Kotcherguina holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and political science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she graduated cum laude. She began her graduate studies in vocal performance in the School of Music at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. Ms. Kotcherguina recently played the role of Monica in The Medium at UALR, and has sung the roles of Cinderella in Into the Woods; soprano in The Four Note Opera; Pamina in Die Zauberflöte; and Marion in The Music Man. Other roles include Mistress Ford in The Merry Wives of Windsor; Zerlina in Don Giovanni; and Maria Corona in The Saint of Bleeker Street. Ms. Kotcherguina was a cast member of the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop in Atlanta for two years, and she spent last summer performing with the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre. She has earned awards at both the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and the Mississippi Music Teachers Association (MMTA).

“I am both so grateful and honored to be an Opera Fellowship recipient. The opportunity to focus solely on my studies is irreplaceable. I want to focus on continuing my growth as a singer and musician, as well as competing and auditioning extensively.” – Ekaterina Kotcherguina
Mr. John Lake graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University, where he received Bachelor of Science degrees in meteorology and computer engineering. He joined the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD program at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. While at Texas A&M, Mr. Lake spent nine semesters on the President's Honor Roll and worked as a tutor in the meteorology department. As a doctoral student at OU, he is working in the Advanced Radar Research Center and focusing on weather radar. Mr. Lake is especially interested in adapting weather radars to deal with interference issues associated with sharing frequency bands.

“I am eternally indebted to the sponsors of my fellowship. Without it, I could not pursue my PhD; now I can work on a project that will make a change and save lives. Thank you.” – John Lake
Mr. Tye Love received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ballet performance from the University of Oklahoma School of Dance in 2009. Upon graduation, Mr. Love danced with Oklahoma City's professional ballet company, The Oklahoma City Ballet, for four seasons. With OKCB he danced noted works by choreographers Antony Tudor, Gerald Arpino, Jessica Lang, Alan Hineline, Margo Sappington, and Robert Mills. His dancing has been recognized by The Oklahoman as having "strong stage presence and gallant partnering." Aside from performing with the Oklahoma City Ballet, for the last three years Mr. Love has taught ballet for students at The Dance Center of The Oklahoma City Ballet. He has also taught ballet and pas de deux for four years at The Joffrey Workshop Texas in San Antonio, Texas.

“I am thrilled to receive a fellowship in the University of Oklahoma School of Dance. I cannot wait to grow as an artist, teacher, and choreographer with the wonderful faculty at OU!” – Tye Love
Ms. Jane Lucas joined the Department of Biology at the University of Oklahoma as a student in the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology graduate program in Fall 2013. She graduated from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she majored in biology. Through her research experiences, Ms. Lucas has become interested in terrestrial ecosystem ecology and particularly in the importance of interactions between above-ground below-ground ecosystem processes. For the past four years, she has been conducting research in collaboration with Dr. Mike Kaspari on tropical ant community ecology as part of a project funded by the National Science Foundation. This work took place at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. Ms. Lucas’ main focus was on a project that explored whether a canopy ant (Azteca trigona) connects above- and below-ground processes in this system. Ms. Lucas presented this work at the Entomological Society of America meeting in 2012, where she won the President’s Prize for best undergraduate oral presentation. In another project, she and her collaborators tested whether carbohydrate and protein additions had interactive effects on the consumer activity, abundance, and diversity of tropical litter ants. This work has been published in the journal Ecosphere.

“With help from the GAANN fellowship, I plan on exploring a variety of environments and organisms to better understand the complexities of the Earth's ecosystems.” – Jane Lucas
Mr. Christopher Madden enjoys an active career as a pianist, pedagogue, and music theorist. His playing has earned him numerous scholarships and grants, allowing him to perform in festivals and master classes throughout the United States and Italy. In 2011, Mr. Madden graduated at the top of his class from The Pennsylvania State University, earning both a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and a Master of Arts in music theory and history. His master’s thesis, “Maurice Ravel’s Affinity for Stéphane Mallarmé: Symbolism and Préciosité in Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé,” has been published as a book. Before arriving at the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Madden completed a Master of Music degree in piano pedagogy at The Florida State University, where he was a graduate teaching assistant working under Victoria McArthur and Read Gainsford. A dedicated teacher, Mr. Madden enjoys working with students of all ages. He was recently invited to present at the student session of the 2013 National Conference for Keyboard Pedagogy.

“As I work towards a doctoral degree, my deepest gratitude goes to the Hoving Fellowship donors for their support. This fellowship will enable me to pursue my academic goals with the University of Oklahoma’s outstanding faculty.” – Christopher Madden
Ms. Emily Margolis completed her master’s degree in the Department of the History of Science in 2013. Her thesis, “Atomic Deliveryman on Display: The Enola Gay at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center,” explores the legacy of the Enola Gay’s controversial exhibition history and the consequences of and visitor response to the aircraft’s current museum presentation. Ms. Margolis served as President of the History of Science Association and the Alt-Ac Group, a student organization she founded to raise awareness about alternative academic careers. She began her doctoral studies at the Johns Hopkins University in Fall 2013, where she will explore the cultural history of American manned spacelift programs, using the resources of the museums and archives in Washington, D.C. She plans to pursue a curatorial career upon the completion of her degree.

“It has been a pleasure to learn and grow in the community of scholars at the University of Oklahoma. I look forward to remaining a part of the OU extended family.” – Emily Margolis
KILEY MOLINARI

FOUNDATION FELLOW

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
ADVISOR: DR. KRISTIN DOWELL

Ms. Kiley Molinari graduated from Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Arts degree in United States history. She received her Master of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Idaho in Spring 2013. Ms. Molinari began the PhD program and was awarded a teaching assistantship in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. Her research has focused on Apsáalooke (Crow) beadwork and regalia from the late 19th century until today. Ms. Molinari has worked with the tribe over the last few years to document the adoption and adaptation of designs and materials used from pre-reservation life until today. During her master’s studies, Ms. Molinari successfully wrote and was awarded two grants from the John Calhoun Smith Foundation. She recently presented a paper about her research at the Northwest Anthropological Conference and was awarded the Student Paper Award. The paper will be published in the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* this fall.

“I am extremely thankful that I was awarded the Foundation Fellowship. School has always been very important to me, and this fellowship will allow me to continue my studies working collaboratively with Native American communities.” — Kiley Molinari
Mr. Erik Moore earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Truman State University in 2001. He then attended law school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and earned his law degree in 2004. In Fall 2013, Mr. Moore began doctoral work in American history at the University of Oklahoma. While in law school, Mr. Moore served as literary editor of the UMKC Law Review. After practicing law for six years, he left his job at the firm to pursue his passion in the study of history. Mr. Moore began graduate work at UMKC in 2010 and graduated with his Master of Arts degree in May 2013. At UMKC, he served as a teaching assistant in the history department, and he won the Best Paper award in April 2012 for his presentation at UMKC’s annual graduate student history conference. His PhD research focuses on U.S.-Latin American relations and international law of the early twentieth century.

“I am extremely honored to receive a Hudson Fellowship. The fellowship really made my choice to attend OU pretty easy. This funding allows me to continue my work in the history of U.S. foreign relations.”

— Erik Moore
Mr. Christopher Nguyen graduated with distinction with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the University of Oklahoma in May 2013. He entered the industrial and organizational psychology PhD program in Fall 2013. During his undergraduate years, Mr. Nguyen participated in the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program and was recognized on both the President’s and Dean’s Honor Rolls. He served as an undergraduate research assistant for social and industrial-organizational psychology research labs and, through participation in the McNair Scholars Program, has presented research findings concerning culture of honor effects upon emotional health and facial trustworthiness judgments at various research conferences. Mr. Nguyen was honored in the Oklahoma Division of State Assistance’s Hall of Fame for his involvement in the McNair program.

“I am extremely appreciative to have received a McNair Graduate Fellowship. With this award, I will be able to pursue my doctorate and give back in both the academic and industrial world.”
—Christopher Nguyen
Ms. Alexandra Niemeyer is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and studied at Ballet Arts Minnesota under the direction of Bonnie Mathis and Lirena Branitski. Ms. Niemeyer has spent summers training at Complexions Dance Company, Alonzo King’s LINES ballet, Boston Conservatory, and New York University’s Tisch Dance. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree with honors from the University of Oklahoma’s ballet pedagogy program. She performed in many productions, including Rodeo as the Ranchowner’s Daughter; Balanchine’s Divertimento no. 15; Firebird; Ben Stevenson’s Sentimientos; and new contemporary and modern works. After college, she joined Continental Ballet Company in Bloomington, Minnesota, where she performed soloist work in Cinderella, Nutcracker, Paquita, Les Sylphides, and Swan Lake. Her graduate work has brought many opportunities on stage in Carmina Burana, Graduation Ball, The Nutcracker, and Cinderella; in the classroom teaching Understanding Dance; and behind the scenes as dance captain to Hugh Wooldridge in The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Her credentials also include adjudicated choreography shown in Young Choreographers’ Showcase, and she has co-produced the annual graduate student showcase, Degrees of Rotation.

“I would like to thank the Foundation for facilitating my creative activities, studies of pedagogy, and advanced academics.”

– Alexandra Niemeyer
Mr. Joseph W. Otto earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University in 2007, a Master of Arts degree from East Carolina University in 2009, and a Master of Arts degree from Appalachian State University in 2012. He joined the PhD program in the Department of History at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2012. He researches the relationship between people and water in the Midwest, a scholarly interest that stems from a strong sense of place and a love for outdoor recreation. His doctoral dissertation examines stream channelization, or the straightening of inland rivers. Mr. Otto has presented research at numerous conferences and assisted with the instruction of both upper and entry level American History courses. Outside the department, he collaborates with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to help provide educational opportunities to senior citizens. His career goal is to teach history at a university somewhere on the North American prairie.

“Pursuing a career you love is a gift unto itself, but a little help is always appreciated. As a newly honored Hudson Fellow, I am strongly motivated to continue developing as a scholar and to achieve my professional goals.” – Joseph Otto
Ms. Anna Reser graduated from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts in 2012. As an undergraduate, she spent time in the studio, attended gallery openings, and showed her work regularly as she participated in group exhibitions and several solo shows in New Mexico. Her recent work has focused on the American space program. Using printmaking and mixed media, Ms. Reser attempted to understand the iconography and aesthetic history of the space program, NASA, and American life during the Cold War. She plans to apply a scholarly methodology to these interests during her graduate research and coursework.

“I am extremely grateful for the opportunities provided by the Alumni Fellowship for my work in the history of science. I look forward to research and coursework in the department and in the collections.”

– Anna Reser
Mr. Brett Roberts completed an Associate of Science degree at Nicolet Area Technical College in 2011 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in biochemistry at Lawrence University of Wisconsin in 2013. He joined the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. Under his undergraduate research advisor, Dr. Kimberly Dickson, Mr. Roberts researched the protein angiogenin, which is the key protein in blood vessel formation and important to cancer. His specific focus on this project was looking at how angiogenin binds to DNA and the genes it may interact with in tumor cells, with the long-term goal of finding an anticancer therapy specific to cancer cells. His recent results have highlighted important information on how angiogenin binds DNA, and will help guide future undergraduates in new project directions. Mr. Roberts has compiled his results into oral presentations and an extensive research paper. He plans to continue his studies at OU, synthesizing and researching the biological activity of secondary metabolites from natural products.

“The McNair Fellowship has allowed me to continue my educational career in the collaborative environment at OU. I look forward to representing both the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and OU as a McNair Fellow.” – Brett Roberts
Mr. Brendan Rork graduated from the University of South Florida with Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and communication. He entered the PhD program in the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. Mr. Rork completed an undergraduate thesis and contributed to the development of several articles that are in various stages of publication as well as two doctoral theses. His research is focused upon the effects of stress on workers, specifically in regard to performance outcomes, motivation, work-family conflict, and health outcomes. He looks forward to his research in counterproductive work behavior and occupational health psychology.

“It has been my goal to become a psychologist since I was a child and I am incredibly thankful that I am able to have this opportunity to pursue my goals aided by this fellowship.” – Brendan Rork
Ms. Maryam Sabeghi received the Bachelor of Science degree with special distinction in mechanical engineering from the University of Oklahoma in Spring 2012. As an undergraduate, she interned at the National Institute of Standards and Technology at Gaithersburg, Maryland, exploring A1. Nanoparticle solidification using nanocalorimetry. Ms. Sabeghi is a member of the Systems Realization Laboratory at the University of Oklahoma. She plans to earn a master’s and PhD in engineering materials and products. She has journal and conference publications and has received two National Science Foundation travel grants. She has been a supplemental instructor at Oklahoma City Community College. Ms. Sabeghi plans to pursue a career in academia because she values creating and sharing knowledge, as well as educating others to create knowledge.

“I am honored to be a 2013 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. This fellowship will support my education and research for three years, and I have committed myself to a scholarly research and education.” — Maryam Sabeghi
MARSHALL SCHMIDT

ALUMNI FELLOW

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Mr. Marshall Schmidt received bachelor degrees in English, sociology and criminology from The Ohio State University in 2010. He received a master’s in sociology and applied social research from West Virginia University in 2013. While at OSU, Mr. Schmidt was a research assistant on a longitudinal study called The New Parents Project, which looked at new parents’ transition into parenthood. While at West Virginia University, Mr. Schmidt served as a graduate teaching assistant in the sociology department during his first year in the program. In his second year, he worked as a research assistant for West Virginia University’s Extension Services. His master’s thesis focused on the role of occupation and how it can shape and affect perceptions of white-collar crime and white-collar criminals.

“I greatly appreciate the opportunity I have been given by receiving this fellowship from the Graduate College at the University of Oklahoma, and am eager to pursue my goal of a PhD in sociology.”

– Marshall Schmidt
Dr. Jie Shao came to the University of Oklahoma with a dream of studying the influence of predation on the increase and maintenance of species diversity in an evolving digital community. The financial support from the Alumni Fellowship provided her a unique opportunity to pursue that dream in her PhD research. In addition, Dr. Shao received an Eddie Carol Smith Scholarship that provided additional support as she worked to complete her PhD, which she did in Fall 2012. She has published one peer-reviewed paper in the International Conference on the Synthesis and Simulation of Living Systems, and is working on two others so she can fully present the numerous exciting findings that she uncovered during her PhD research using the Tierra system. Dr. Shao plans to find a postdoctoral research position to continue studying the rise of community diversity through species interactions.

“The Alumni Fellowship provided me the opportunity to do research in a highly creative and challenging field. This scientific training of original ideas with deep thinking helped me become an independent researcher.” – Jie Shao
IGNAT SOROKO

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT FELLOW

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Mr. Ignat Soroko earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Belarusian State University (Minsk, Belarus) and the master’s degree from Michigan State University. He joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Oklahoma as a PhD student in Fall 2013. While at BSU, Mr. Soroko was involved in the study of the regular subalgebras of affine Kac-Moody algebras. He has a refereed publication of his results. While at MSU, Mr. Soroko studied topology and mapping class groups of surfaces. He worked on the problem of determining when a group generated by two multitwists on a surface is free. He also became interested in the problem of linearity of mapping class groups and poly-free groups. Mr. Soroko was the coordinator of the graduate students’ geometry and topology seminar at MSU, and a co-organizer of the 9th annual Graduate Students Geometry and Topology Conference in April 2011. He holds the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Department of Mathematics at MSU.

“I would like to thank the Department of Mathematics at OU for giving me this Fellowship which will enable me to stay focused on my research, and will streamline my path to PhD.” – Ignat Soroko
Mr. Rodney Westbrook, tenor, began his academic career at Texas Tech University. He made it to the finals in the Senior Men’s division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition, and moved on to a professional singing career in Würzburg, Germany for four years. Mr. Westbrook returned from Germany in Fall 2006 to complete his bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma. While an undergraduate, he performed six operas roles: Gerald in Lakmé; Count Almaviva in Il Barbiere di Siviglia; Tamino in Die Zauberflöte; Sesto in Giulio Cesare; Eisenstein in Die Fledermaus; and Peter Quint in The Turn of the Screw. In Summer 2009, Mr. Westbrook was accepted into The Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, under the direction of world class mezzo soprano Marilyn Horne. There, he was a finalist in the Marilyn Horne Art Song Competition. Mr. Westbrook maintains his professional singing status as an opera singer and concert soloist. He has been invited to Eisenstadt, Austria for the past four years as a tenor soloist at the Classical Music Festival.

“I feel that an opportunity of this magnitude does not happen everyday. Furthermore, I believe I can now look my two beautiful children in the eyes and say, ‘Chase your Dreams as I once did.’” – Rodney Westbrook
Soprano Ms. Patricia Westley received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University, graduating with both university and college honors in 2013. She began the Master of Music program at the University of Oklahoma in Fall 2013. Recent operatic role debuts include La Chouette in Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les sortileges*; Susanna in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*; Mistress of Novices in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*; and most recently, Laurie in Aaron Copland’s *The Tender Land*, under the baton of maestro Gil Rose. In Summer 2013, Ms. Westley performed for the second year at the International Vocal Arts Institute, as well as in the Monadnock Music Festival’s production of Ned Rorem’s *Our Town* with the role of Emily Webb. In 2012, as part of the Tyrolean Opera Program in Tirol, Austria, Ms. Westley studied under OU’s very own Kim Josephson. Ms. Westley is the winner of the prestigious Derdeyn Award for Vocal Excellence, the Lee & Barbara Cass Award, and The School of Music Scholarship for four consecutive years.

“It is with great honor and gratitude I accept the Opera Fellowship at the University of Oklahoma. The chance for me to train with OU’s highly-acclaimed artist faculty is an unimaginably wonderful opportunity of which I plan to take full advantage.” – Patricia Westley
Born in Nice, France, soprano Cèlia Zambon Wollenberg received a BMA with distinction, an MM in voice performance, and a DMA in voice performance from the University of Oklahoma. While at OU, she performed in many recitals and concerts, such as the Collegium Musicum, and in operas, such as Lakmé (Lakmé), The Magic Flute (Queen of the Night), and The Barber of Seville (Rosina). Throughout this past school year, she performed in several recitals with Scissortail Productions, Inc. She joined the voice faculty at the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall, and also teaches private voice lessons at Sonder Music Dance and Art in Norman. She graduated last fall, after successfully defending her doctoral dissertation on the topic, “A Performance Guide of Light Lyric Coloratura Soprano Repertoire in Four Early Operas by Jean-Philippe Rameau (1733-1745).” In early April, Cèlia and her husband Justin welcomed their firstborn son into this world.

“It is a great honor to be a doctoral student at the University of Oklahoma. I am grateful for the Hoving Fellowship, which allows me to receive not only an excellent education, but also valuable teaching experience.” – Cèlia Wollenberg
Dr. Matthew Wulfers received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Southeast Missouri State University in 2008. He then came to the University of Oklahoma for his PhD studies in chemical engineering, which he completed in 2013. Dr. Wulfers’ research focused on the mechanistic aspects of zeolite-catalyzed hydrocarbon transformations, with an emphasis on chemical reactions relevant to production of liquid transportation fuels from both traditional and renewable feedstocks. In the summer of 2013, Dr. Wulfers began postdoctoral research at the University of Delaware.

“With training as both a chemist and a chemical engineer, I feel very fortunate to be in a position where I can contribute to many scientific investigations that are important to our society.” – Matthew Wulfers
Dr. Henry Zepeda completed his PhD in the history of science in Summer 2013. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts from Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California, and his Master of Arts degree in the history of science from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. Dr. Zepeda’s research focused on the history of medieval mathematical sciences. His master’s thesis, “Compound Ratios in the Work of Jordanus de Nemore,” examined how an important thirteenth-century mathematician conceived of the “addition” of ratios. Dr. Zepeda’s dissertation, “The Medieval Latin Transmission of the Menelaus Theorem,” traced the history of a proof used in spherical astronomy. The recipient of a National Science Foundation grant, Dr. Zepeda has produced critical editions of several unpublished medieval astronomical works, which are included in his dissertation.

“The Alumni Fellowship greatly helped my research by allowing me to travel to libraries across the United States and Europe in order to examine medieval manuscripts.” – Henry Zepeda
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