U.S. Coast Guard Academy Honors Program

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021

Dr. Alina M. Zapalska, Director, Honors Program

Mission

The Honors Program at the Academy cultivates academic excellence across all majors and encourages scholarly achievement.

Second- and first-class cadets may be selected for the Honors Colloquium to compete for:

- Scholarships such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, Truman, Schwarzman, and Gates
- Honors internships, fellowships, and independent studies/research projects
- Travel to present research at academic conferences

The Academy offers opportunities to fourth- and third-class cadets:

- Validation and placement in advanced courses in chemistry, physics, and mathematics

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021-2022 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

ENS Gregory Gaskel (Class of 2020 - Operations Research and Computer Analysis Major)

2021-2023 Fulbright U.S. Student Award – Hungary (Applied Mathematics; 2-year award)

Research Project: Developing Stochastic Models to Enhance Cyber Intrusion Detection via Anomalous Behavior

Degree: Master of Science in Applied Mathematics

Institution: University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

1/c Salena Bantz (Class of 2021 – Electrical Engineering Major)

2021-2023 Fulbright-Tampere University Graduate Award – Finland (Electrical Engineering; 2-year award)

Project: Design of Smart Power Grids for Renewable Energy Systems

Degree: Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

Institution: Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

As a Fulbright scholar in Hungary, Ensign Gregory Gaskel will pursue a Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Debrecen (UD), Debrecen, Hungary. ENS Gaskel plans to study probabilistic models that can estimate the spread of infectious diseases, the severity of climate change caused by natural and anthropogenic factors, and threats to computer networks. He will work on a master’s research project to develop stochastic models to enhance cyber intrusion detection through anomalous behavior that will be applicable to protecting computer networks in both the private and public sectors.

At the UD, ENS Gaskel plans to establish an American-Hungarian Student Association to promote American culture and values. He also plans to join Magyar LMBT (LGBT) Szövetség to help promote social equality and engage with students and faculty in activities offered through Lovarda Hall. He has recently published a paper in the Military Operations Research journal entitled “U.S. Coast Guard District 11 Air Station Analysis,” assessing alternative Coast Guard helicopter siting plans in Southern California to enhance search and rescue coverage.
As a Fulbright scholar in Finland, 1/c Salena Bantz will pursue a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering at Tampere University (TU), Tampere, Finland. 1/c Bantz will be studying smart grids as well as wind and solar technologies that are effective solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and have tremendous potential for meeting the world’s energy needs. In her proposed Fulbright application, 1/c Bantz argued that “...The uncertainty and intermittency of wind and solar generation are major complications that must be addressed before the full potential of these renewables can be reached. The smart grid promises a solution....” She plans to conduct research “Design of Smart Power Grids for Renewable Energy Systems” to design smart power grids that are flexible, reliable, efficient, and resilient. This design will aim to overcome the shortcomings of the traditional electric power grid by allowing the effective management and deployment of clean energy technologies to deliver power generation that is more reliable, secure, and affordable.

Her research will be conducted with the experts at TU’s Smart Grid Research Group. In her free time, 1/c Bantz will work with the Fulbright Finland Foundation to advance partnerships among engineers and other professionals in Finland and the United States. By working with the TU Sustainability and Impact Club, she plans to organize discussion groups where students across all majors will share their ideas and concerns regarding climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, and human rights. To experience the joy of mutual cultural understanding provided through the Fulbright program, she plans to work with Finnish students at Etelä-hervannan Koulu high school to educate them about US culture while encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM. Studying the Finnish Language and exploring the country’s natural, historical, and cultural treasures will allow her to discover all aspects of Finnish society.

ENSIGN Owen Gibson (Civil Engineering Major, Class 2020): As a 2020-2021 Fulbright scholar to Germany, ENSIGN Owen Gibson began pursuing a two-year Master of Science Degree in Water Resource Engineering and Management at the University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany. He is currently taking courses in climate change and soil erosion models. The goal of his master’s thesis, Predicting the Impact of Climate Change on Soil Erosion in Coastal Areas, is to develop a model for assessing coastal soil erosion rates.

THE 2021 AMERICAN SERVICE ACADEMIES PROGRAM
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 ASAP Awardees

2/c Madison Pugh and 3/c Christina Groves

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO THE HONORS PROGRAM CADETS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THE REMOTE TUTORING PROGRAM TO THE FIELDS MEMORIAL SCHOOL, BOZRAH, CT AND THE FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, NORTH FRANKLIN, CT.

Leaders: 1/c Sean Seyller, 1/c Sarah Wenzel, and 3/c Christine Groves
First volunteers and tutors: Abigail Horan, Branyelle Carillo, Max Van Rees, Madison James, Natasha Muirhead, Greg Costello, Logan Tobias, Thomas Klawinski, Alexander Bellan, Teegan Cordova, Olivia Oyola, Mia Huncharek, Samuel Kim, Jordan Lindsey, Katherine DeHart, Roisin Beirne, Clara Barnes, Natasha Muirhead, Bridget Dineen, and Kata Cummings
Advisors: Dr. Alina Zapalska, U.S.CGA Honors Program
The Academy’s Scholars

1/c Salena Bantz (Class 2021) Fulbright Scholar 2021-23
ENS Gregory Gaskel (Class 2020) Fulbright Scholar 2021-23
LT Kristopher Thornburg (OCS Class 2012) Fulbright Scholar 2020
Ms. Melissa McCafferty (Class of 2011) Tillman 2020
1/c Owen Gibson (Class 2020) Fulbright Scholar 2020
1/C Erin Wright (Class 2018) Fulbright Scholar 2018
ENS Laura Beck (Class 2017) Fulbright Scholar 2018
1/c Patrick Ledzian (Class of 2017) Fulbright Scholar 2017
ENS Christian DiBari (Class of 2016) Fulbright Scholar 2017
CDR William Woityra (Class of 1999) Fulbright Scholar 2017
1/c Jacquelyn Kubicko (Class of 2016) Fulbright Scholar 2016
1/c Stephen Horvath (Class of 2015) Fulbright Scholar 2015-17
1/c Jessica Lukasik (Class of 2014) Fulbright Scholar 2014
LTJG Joe DiRenzo IV (Class of 2010) Fulbright Scholar 2012
2/c Allison Murray (Class of 2011) Kinsey Scholar 2010
1/c Joe DiRenzo IV (Class of 2010) Fulbright Scholar 2010
2/c Melissa McCafferty (Class of 2011) Truman Scholar 2010
1/c Alex LeKander (Class of 2010) Truman Scholar 2009
1/c Louise Mandour-Brackin (Class of 2009) Fulbright Scholar 2009
ENS Sean Dolbow (OCS 2009) Fulbright Scholar 2007
2/c DeCarol Davis (Class of 2008) Truman Scholar 2007
1/c Patrick Pennella (Class of 2007) Fulbright Scholar 2007
1/c Kirsten Ambors (Class of 2007) Fulbright Scholar 2007
LT Stephen Elliott (Class of 2005) Fulbright Scholar 2005
Dr. Robert Pefferly (Class of 1991) Fulbright Scholar 1996
CAPT Mike Christian (Class of 1986) Fulbright Scholar 1986
Mr. Peter Seaman (Class of 1986) Fulbright Scholar 1986
Mr. David Caron ’74 - Fulbright 1974
Mr. Dan A. Colussy ’53 - Fulbright 1956